

Obama Limits Military-Style Equipment for Police Forces

(Chris LaChall/Camden Courier-Post via AP, Pool)

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Obama Limits Military-Style Equipment for Police Forces

JULIE HIRSCHFELD DAVIS
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CAMDEN, N.J. - President Barack Obama on Monday banned the federal provision of some types of military-style equipment to local police departments and sharply restricted the availability of others.

The ban is part of Obama's push to ease tensions between law enforcement and minority communities in reaction to the crises in Baltimore; Ferguson, Missouri; and other cities.

He took the action after a task force he created in January decided that police departments should be barred from using federal funds to acquire items that include tracked armored vehicles, the highest-caliber firearms and ammunition, and camouflage uniforms. The ban is part of a series of steps the president has made to try to build trust between law enforcement organizations and the citizens they are charged with protecting.

Obama promoted the effort Monday during a visit

to Camden, New Jersey. The city, racked by poverty and crime, has become a national model for better relations between the police and citizens after replacing its beleaguered police force with a county-run system that prioritizes community ties.

Obama held up Camden as a counterpoint to places like Ferguson, where the killing of a young black man by a white police officer last summer and the violent protests that followed exposed long-simmering hostility between law enforcement agencies and minorities in cities around the country.

"Camden and its people still face some very big challenges, but the city is on to something - you've made real progress in just two years," Obama told about 300 people at the Ray and Joan Kroc Center, a Salvation Army facility in the city's Kramer Hill section along the Delaware River waterfront. "If it's working here, it can work anywhere."



President Barack Obama, with Camden's Police Chief J. Scott Thomson, left, meets with local law enforcement and young people from the Camden community at the Ray & Joan Kroc Corps Community Center, Monday, May 18, 2015, in Camden, NJ.

(AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais)

Still, some civil liberties advocates cast doubt on the success story Obama was trying to tell. The American Civil Liberties Union's New Jersey branch expressed concern on Monday that the shift in Camden has been toward more arrests and tickets for low-level offenses such as riding a bicy-

cle without a bell or lights, disorderly conduct and failure to maintain lights on a vehicle. And complaints of the use of excessive force by the police rose sharply last year to 65, the group said, with about two-thirds of those dismissed by the department.

"The significant increase in

low-level arrests and summonses, combined with what appears to be the absence of adequate accountability for excessive force complaints, raise serious concerns," said Udi Ofer, the branch's executive director. Arresting more people for petty offenses, he added, "has the potential to create a climate of fear, rather than respect, in the community."

As he held up Camden as a model for positive change, Obama also moved to crack down on overly aggressive police tactics with the announcement of new equipment restrictions.

"We've seen how militarized gear can sometimes give people a feeling like there's an occupying force, as opposed to a force that's part of the community that's protecting them and serving them," Obama said, adding that such equipment can "alienate and intimidate" communities and "send the wrong message." □



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Charges filed against 170 motorcycle gang members in Texas

**N. MERCHANT
D. WARREN**
Associated Press

WACO, Texas (AP) — About 170 members of rival motorcycle gangs were charged with engaging in organized crime Monday, a day after a shootout at a Texas restaurant that killed nine people and wounded 18.

The crowd of suspects was so large that authorities opened a convention center to hold them all before they were arrested, police said.

Sunday's melee at the Twin Peaks restaurant in Waco drew a broad police response that included placing officers atop buildings and highway overpasses to watch for other bikers rushing to the scene south of Dallas to retaliate.

McLennan County Justice of the Peace W.H. Peterson set bond at \$1 million for each suspect. He defended the high amount, citing the violence that quickly unfolded in a shopping market busy with a lunch-time crowd.

Peterson also performed inquests on the nine dead bikers but declined to identify them pending notification of family. Peterson says all nine were from Texas.

Police acknowledged firing on armed bikers. But it was unclear how many of the dead were shot by gang members and how many had been shot by officers. Waco police Sgt. W. Patrick Swanton said the Waco Convention Center was used to hold the suspects temporarily as police rushed to secure many parts of the city amid re-

ports of rival bikers going elsewhere to continue the fight. Those at the convention center were later taken to jail.

It's too early to determine how many motorcycle gang members will face murder charges, Swanton said.

and eat barbecue," Swanton said. "They came here with violence in mind."

Twin Peaks — a national chain that features waitresses in revealing uniforms — on Monday revoked the franchise rights to the restaurant, which opened in August.

day issued a seven-day suspension of the restaurant's liquor license, but owners had the option of reopening to serve meals.

Police and the restaurant operators were aware of Sunday's meeting in advance, and 18 Waco officers in addition to state

tained in the hours after the shooting were seen wearing leather vests that read Bandidos or Cossacks.

McLennan County Sheriff Parnell McNamara, whose office is involved in the investigation, said the nine dead were members of those gangs.

More than 100 motorcycles were in the parking lots around the restaurant Monday, along with another 50 to 75 vehicles that probably belong to gang members, Swanton said.

All were scheduled to be towed from the scene, 95 miles south of Dallas.

Swanton said authorities had received threats against law enforcement "throughout the night" from biker groups and stood ready to confront any more violence. Officials stopped and questioned motorcycle riders. Agents from the FBI and the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives were assisting local and state authorities.

In a 2014 gang-threat assessment, the Texas Department of Public Safety classified the Bandidos as a "Tier 2" threat, the second highest. Other groups in that tier included the Bloods, Crips and Aryan Brotherhood of Texas.

The Bandidos, formed in the 1960s, are involved in trafficking cocaine, marijuana and methamphetamine, according to the U.S. Department of Justice.

The Bandidos conduct their activities as covertly as possible to avoid publicity, according to the DPS assessment. □



Waco Police Sgt. Patrick Swanton addresses the media as law enforcement continues to investigate the motorcycle gang related shooting at the Twin Peaks restaurant, Monday, May 18, 2015, in Waco, Texas, where nine were killed Sunday and over a dozen injured. About 170 gang members charged with engaging in organized crime are each being held on a \$1 million bond and authorities say charges of capital murder are expected in the wake of the Central Texas shooting. (AP Photo, Jerry Larson)

Five gangs had gathered at the restaurant as part of a meeting to settle differences over turf and recruitment. Prior meetings had been held at the restaurant, and managers there had dismissed police concerns over the gatherings, he said.

"They were not here to drink

Company spokesman Rick Van Warner said in a statement that the management team chose to ignore warnings and advice from the company, and did not establish the "high security standards" that the company requires.

The Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission on Mon-

troopers were outside the restaurant when the fight began, Swanton said.

Swanton has repeatedly declined to identify which gangs were involved in a fight that began with punches then grew to include chains, knives and then guns.

However, many men de-

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ISIS rout in Ramadi calls US Iraq strategy into question

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The fall of Ramadi calls into question the Obama administration's strategy in Iraq.

Is there a Plan B?

The current U.S. approach is a blend of retraining and rebuilding the Iraqi army, prodding Baghdad to reconcile with the nation's Sunnis, and bombing Islamic State targets from the air without committing American ground combat troops.

But the rout revealed a weak Iraqi army, slow reconciliation and a bombing campaign that, while effective, is not decisive.

On Monday, administration officials acknowledged the fall of Ramadi, the capital of Anbar province, as a "setback" in America's latest effort in Iraq. They still maintained the campaign would ultimately bring victory.

But anything close to a victory appeared far off. The Islamic State group captured Ramadi over the weekend, killing up to 500 Iraqi civilians and soldiers and causing 8,000 people to flee their homes. On Monday the militants did a door-to-door search looking for policemen and pro-government tribesmen.

One alternative would be a containment strategy — trying to fence in the conflict rather than push the Islamic State group out of Iraq. That might include a combination of airstrikes and U.S. special operations raids to limit the group's reach. In fact, a Delta Force raid in Syria on Friday killed an IS leader known as Abu Sayyaf who U.S. officials said oversaw the group's

oil and gas operations, a major source of funding. Officials have said containment might become an option but is not under active discussion now.

It seems highly unlikely that President Barack Obama would take the more dramatic route of sending ground combat forces into Iraq to rescue the situation in Ramadi or elsewhere. A White House spokesman, Eric Shultz, said Monday the U.S. will continue its support through airstrikes, advisers and trainers; he pointed to an intensified series of coalition air assaults in the Ramadi area, which included eight strikes overnight Sunday. The administration has said repeatedly that it does not believe Iraq can be stabilized for the long term unless Iraqis do the ground fighting. Pentagon officials insisted Monday the current U.S. plan is still viable and that the loss of the city was merely part of the ebb and flow of war, not a sign that the Islamic State had exposed a fatal weakness in the Iraqi security forces and the U.S. strategy. "We will retake Ramadi," said Col. Steve Warren, a Pentagon spokesman. The timing, he added, will be up to the Iraqi government. Analysts are skeptical. Stephen Biddle, a George Washington University professor of political science who periodically advised U.S. commanders in Iraq during the 2003-2011 war, said Obama has been trying to split the Sunni tribes away from the Islamic State while pressing the Iraqi government to foster and rely on non-sectarian military forces. □



Graham, Jindal edge toward 2016 race

Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., speaks during the Iowa Republican Party's Lincoln Dinner, Saturday, May 16, 2015, in Des Moines, Iowa.

(AP Photo/Charlie Neibergall)

NEW YORK (AP) — Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal and Sen. Lindsay Graham edged toward entering the already crowded Republican presidential field, even though both are considered longshots for the party's 2016 nomination.

Jindal, the first Indian-American governor, announced Monday the formation of an exploratory committee to consider a presidential campaign, usually the final step before announcing a campaign.

Jindal suggested the U.S. needs a leader with the "ideas to change our country's future."

Graham, who earlier formed an exploratory committee, all but confirmed he will run for president. The foreign policy hawk said he believes he would be the best choice to serve as commander in chief at a time of continued unrest in the Middle East.

The wide-open Republican race could ultimately feature more than a dozen candidates.

Both Graham and Jindal barely register in early presidential polls of Republican primary voters, though both could merit consideration as a vice presidential candidate.

The already declared candidates include Sens. Rand Paul of Kentucky, Ted Cruz of Texas and Marco Rubio of Florida. Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker and former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush are expected to enter the race soon.

Hillary Rodham Clinton is the heavy favorite to secure the Democratic nomination.

Jindal, as he has in the past, said he will announce his ultimate decision on a White House bid after his state's legislative session ends in mid-June.

The 43-year-old Jindal slammed President Barack Obama's leadership, saying the Democratic president "has started to redefine the American Dream, turning it into the European nightmare."

"Because of this, I believe our country is in serious

trouble and that the hour is late for America," Jindal said. "Economic collapse is much closer to the door than people realize, our culture is decaying at a rapid rate and our standing in a dangerous world is at an all-time low."

Both Graham and Jindal spent the weekend with other Republican presidential contenders in Iowa, whose caucuses kick off next year's state-by-state nominating contests.

Jindal, a Catholic convert raised by Hindu parents, has focused on courting evangelical Christians and the conservative wing of the Republican Party. He drew widespread criticism for a London speech in which he repeated heavily disputed claims that Muslims have established "no-go zones" in European neighborhoods that operate outside of local civic control.

Graham said in an interview Monday on "CBS This Morning" that "I'm running because the world is falling apart." □

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Inspectors unsure anything struck US train before derailment



An Amtrak police officer stands guard outside Train 110, Monday, May 18, 2015, at Philadelphia's 30th Street Station. The train bound for New York's Penn Station was the first northbound train from the city since a May 12 derailment killed 8 people and injured dozens. (AP Photo/Michael R. Sisak)

MICHAEL R. SISAK
Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — U.S. authorities said Monday they're unsure anything struck the windshield of an Amtrak train minutes before a deadly derailment in Philadelphia last week, adding another twist to the investigation the day the national passenger rail's trains started running to New York again.

The National Transportation Safety Board said it has not ruled out the possibility an object may have struck the windshield but is uncertain the locomotive was hit at all before the May 12 derailment, which killed eight people and injured more than 200 others. Investigators are certain a

gunshot did not strike the train.

FBI agents performed forensic work on a grapefruit-sized fracture on the left side of the Amtrak locomotive's windshield, and the NTSB said they found no evidence of any damage that could have been caused by a firearm.

The developments Monday raised new questions about the events leading up to the derailment, including a conversation an assistant conductor told investigators she heard between the Amtrak engineer and a regional rail train engineer minutes before the train sped up and went off the rails at a curve. The assistant conductor said she heard the regional train engineer say he'd been "hit by a rock or shot at" and she thought she heard the Amtrak engineer say his train had also been struck.

The NTSB said the regional train engineer recalled no such conversation, and investigators listened to the dispatch tape and heard no communications from the Amtrak engineer to the railroad's dispatch center to say that something had struck the train.

The Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority said it doesn't know what caused the damage to its train that night.

Investigators have focused on the acceleration of the Amtrak train as it approached the curve, reaching 106 mph as it entered a 50 mph (80 kph) stretch and slowing down only slightly before the crash. □

US expert says he hacked plane controls mid-flight

C. THOMPSON
Associated Press

A security researcher told federal agents he was able to hack into aircraft computer systems mid-flight numerous times through the in-flight entertainment systems, and at one point he caused a plane he was on to move sideways, according to an FBI agent's affidavit.

Although the claims are still being investigated, the airline involved, United, cast doubt on whether it was possible to control an airplane through the entertainment system, while other experts said such cyber threats should be taken seriously given that airplanes are increasingly connected to the Internet. The researcher, Chris Roberts, was questioned upon

his arrival at the Syracuse, New York, airport April 15. He had suggested on Twitter while on a United Airlines flight from Chicago that he could get the oxygen masks to deploy or interfere with the cockpit's alert systems, according to the court filing in support of a search warrant for Roberts' laptop and other electronics.

Roberts founded One World Labs, which tries to discover security risks before they are exploited. He had met previously, in February and March, with the FBI to discuss vulnerabilities with in-flight entertainment systems aboard certain aircraft, the affidavit said. During the meetings, Roberts claimed to have compromised the systems 15 to 20 times between 2011

and 2014, using a cable to connect his laptop to an electronics box located beneath passenger seats, the document said.

"He stated that he thereby caused one of the airplane engines to climb resulting in a lateral or sideways movement of the plane during one of these flights," the affidavit said.

Roberts declined to comment Monday when reached at his Denver, Colorado, office. In a statement issued through his attorney, he said his "only interest has been to improve aircraft safety."

"Given the current situation, I've been advised against saying more," said the statement provided by Nate Cardozo, a staff attorney with the San Francisco-based Electronic

Frontier Foundation.

A report by the U.S. Government Accountability Office last month said some commercial aircraft may be vulnerable to hacking over their onboard wireless networks. "Modern aircraft are increasingly connected to the Internet. This interconnectedness can potentially provide unauthorized remote access to aircraft avionics systems," the report said. The fact that passengers on flights with in-seat video monitors can shift between television and a map showing the plane's real-time location indicates a link between the flight control and passenger entertainment networks, said Steven Bellovin, a computer science professor at Columbia University. □



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US Financial Front:

American homebuilders' confidence in sales prospects ebbs



A worker helps to frame a new home at a housing tract in Las Vegas. The National Association of Home Builders/Wells Fargo builder sentiment index released Monday, May 18, 2015, slipped this month to 54, down two points from 56 in April.

(AP Photo/John Locher)

ALEX VEIGA

AP Real Estate Writer

U.S. homebuilders are feeling slightly less confident about their sales prospects, a reflection of the sluggish start to this spring's home-selling season.

Even so, builders' overall sales outlook remains favorable.

The National Association of Home Builders/Wells Fargo builder sentiment index released Monday slipped to

54 this month, down two points from 56 in April.

Readings above 50 indicate more builders view sales conditions as good, rather than poor.

The latest reading is up nine points from a year ago.

Measures of current sales conditions and traffic by prospective buyers also fell. Builders' outlook for sales of single-family homes over the next six months edged higher.

"Consumers are exhibiting caution, and want to be on more stable financial footing before purchasing a home," said NAHB Chief Economist David Crowe.

Sales of new U.S. homes plummeted 11.4 percent in March, as the spring buying season opened with sharp declines in the Northeast and South, according to the Commerce Department. □

Summer skies: US airlines to fly a record number of passengers

SCOTT MAYEROWITZ

AP Airlines Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — A record number of travelers are expected to take to the skies this summer thanks to a rebounding economy.

U.S. airlines will carry 222 million passengers between June 1 and Aug. 31, topping the summer of 2007 when 217.6 million people flew, Airlines for America, the industry's trade and lobbying group, predicted Monday. That figure includes 31 million travelers on international flights, also a record.

On average, there will be 2.4 million passengers a day, 4.5 percent more than last summer. After several years of limiting their expansion,

U.S. airlines are now quickly adding more seats, including 4.6 percent more this summer. Those added

seats are mostly the result of airlines flying larger planes and packing in extra rows to existing jets.

Those extra seats have given pause to some Wall Street analysts who worry that airlines might have to discount fares to fill them. That hasn't happened yet, but after years of steadily rising airfares, there is a tiny bit of relief for fliers this summer — \$2.01 in savings to be exact.

The average roundtrip domestic ticket this summer, including taxes, now stands at \$454, down less than a percent from last summer. Vacationers to Europe will fare better,

with the average ticket down 3 percent to \$1,619, about \$50 less than last summer, according to the Airlines Reporting Corp., which processes ticket transactions for airlines and





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IS militants look for collaborators after taking Iraqi city



Iraqi Sunni tribal leaders demand Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi send forces to protect their city and regain Ramadi during a press conference in Habaniyah, 50 miles west of Baghdad, Iraq. (AP Photo)

**SINAN SALAHEDDIN
 SAMEER N. YACOB**
Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — Islamic State militants searched door-to-door for policemen and pro-government fighters and threw bodies in the Euphrates River in a bloody purge Monday after capturing the strategic city of Ramadi, their biggest victory since overrunning much of northern and western Iraq last year. Some 500 civilians and soldiers died in the extremist killing spree since the final push for Ramadi began Friday, authorities said. Responding to a call from Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi, hundreds of Iranian-allied Shiite militiamen rushed to a military base near Ramadi, the capital of overwhelmingly Sunni Anbar province, to prepare for an assault to try to retake the city, Anbar officials said.

The order came despite Obama administration concerns that the presence of Shiite fighters in the Sunni-dominated region could spark sectarian bloodshed. Until now, the defense of Anbar has been in the hands of the Iraqi military fighting alongside Sunni tribesmen, who al-Abadi's Shiite-led government had vowed to arm and support — something it has done only sporadically. The Shiite militias have been key to victories against the Islamic State group on other fronts north of Baghdad in recent months. But they have also been widely criticized over accusations of extrajudicial killings of Sunnis, as well as of looting and torching Sunni property — charges militia leaders

deny.

In the face of the Islamic State group's brutality, some Sunnis appeared ready to accept help even from the Shiite militiamen.

"We welcome any group, including Shiite militias, to come and help us in liberating the city from the militants," said Sunni tribal leader Naeem al-Gauoud, who fought to defend Ramadi and criticized what he called "lack of good planning by the military." But Abu Ammar, another Anbar native who owns a grocery store in Ramadi, said he saw no difference between the Islamic State group's brutal practices and those of Shiite militiamen.

"If the Shiite militias enter Ramadi, they will do the same things being done by Daesh," he said, using an Arabic acronym for the militant group. "In both cases, we will be either killed or displaced. For us, the militias and IS militants are two faces of the same coin."

The fall of Ramadi prompted Iran's defense minister, Gen. Dossein Dehghan, to make a surprise visit to Baghdad for urgent talks with Iraqi leaders. He met with al-Abadi, who praised Iran's support for Iraq in the face of the militants.

The loss of Ramadi was a stunning defeat for Iraq's security forces and military, which fled as Islamic State extremists overwhelmed their last hold-out positions despite the support of U.S.-led airstrikes. Online video showed Humvees, trucks and other equipment speeding out of Ramadi, with soldiers desperate to reach safety gripping onto their sides. □

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Greek finance minister says bailout deal is very close

D. GATOPOULOS
N. PAPHITIS

Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece (AP) —

Greek Finance Minister Yanis Varoufakis said Monday that he expects an agreement with bailout creditors within the next week, which would save the cash-strapped country from fast-approaching bankruptcy. "I think we are very close," Varoufakis said. "Let's say (it's a matter) of about a week."

For almost four months, Greece's radical left-led government has been haggling with its creditors from the 19-country eurozone and International Monetary Fund over economic reforms it must make to secure a 7.2 billion euro (\$8 billion) cash injection.

That is the final payment due from the country's 240 billion-euro bailout program, launched five years ago after Greece's public finances spiraled out of control and it was locked out of international bond markets.

In a late-night interview with private Star TV, Varoufakis said creditors also appear to believe that the time is ripe for a deal.

But he insisted that he would reject any compromise that the radical left-led government in Athens considers to be "non-viable."

Earlier, Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras said the country has tabled detailed proposals for a viable deal. But he warned that Greece is in a state of "financial strangu-



Dutch Finance Minister Jeroen Dijsselbloem, right, gestures while speaking with Greek Finance Minister Yanis Varoufakis during a meeting of the eurogroup finance ministers in Brussels. Varoufakis said Monday that he expects an agreement with bailout creditors within the next week.

(AP Photo/Virginia Mayo)

lation."

Over the past few weeks, Greece has survived by scraping together cash from reserve accounts to pay debts as well as day-to-day commitments like wages and pensions.

However, Athens admits it is running out of options as further debt repayments come due next month. If no deal is agreed, Tsipras' government may be faced with a choice of what to pay, imposing capital controls or even leaving the euro.

"I assure you that if we face a dilemma between paying a creditor who refuses to sign an agreement with us and a pensioner, we will pay the pensioner," Varoufakis said. "I hope we will be able to pay both." □

EU approves military plan for targeting migrant traffickers

Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — European Union nations approved plans Monday for a naval operation to go after the human trafficking networks that are sending thousands of migrants weekly across the Mediterranean toward Europe or to their deaths. NATO said it stood ready to help out if needed.

EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini said she expects the operation to be fully launched next month after Britain, France, Italy and other nations pledge military equipment.

More than 10,000 migrants have been picked up alive from Mediterranean waters in recent weeks as they attempted to enter Europe from Libya. The International Organization for Migration estimates that nearly 1,830 migrants have died on the sea route this year

compared to 207 in the same period last year.

The first phase of the EU plan centers on intelligence gathering and surveillance of smuggling routes leading from Libya to southern Italy and Malta. After that, EU ships would start chasing and boarding the smugglers' boats in a second phase. The 28-nation bloc is still seeking a U.N. resolution that would give them full legal protection as they destroy the smugglers' boats in a third phase of the plan.

"The fundamental point is not so much the destruction of the vessels but it is the destruction of the business model of the traffickers," said Mogherini.

Given that the summer high season for trafficking is rapidly approaching, she said speed was of the essence. □



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* Spicy Beef Soup / Madam Jeanette

*French Onion Soup

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Keshi Yena "Local"

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or

Crispy Asian Salad

Rice noodle and crispy veggies served with ginger sesame dressing

Entrees

Chicken Alfredo Pasta served on homemade fettuccini pasta topped with shaved parmesan

or

Grilled marinated Skirted Steak and Shrimps

served with seasonal veggies, herbed potatoes and chimichuri sauce

or

Panfried Filet of Grouper

served with stirfried veggies, mashed potatoes and creamy clam sauce

Dessert

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Flood, mudslide swamp homes in Colombia, 52 dead

LUIS BENAVIDES
Associated Press

SALGAR, Colombia (AP) — An avalanche of mud and debris roared over an alpine town in western Colombia before dawn Monday, killing at least

ed Press, adding that never in 34 years living next to the ravine had he suspected such a tragedy was possible. "The river took out everything in its path," the construction worker said, in-

from an open trunk. President Juan Manuel Santos, who traveled to the town to oversee relief efforts, said several children lost their parents and the bodies of those killed needed to be transported

rise. Dozens have suffered light injuries and an unknown number of people are still unaccounted for. Colombia's rugged topography, in a seismically active area at the northern edge of the Andes, combined with shoddy construction practices, has made the country one of Latin America's most disaster-prone. More than 150 disasters have struck the country over the past 40 years, claiming more than 32,000 lives and affecting more than 12 million people, according to the Inter-American Development Bank. The tragedy in Salgar appeared to be the single deadliest event since a 1999 earthquake in the city of Armenia that left hundreds dead. A wave of flooding during the 2011 rainy season left more than 100 dead.

Luz Maria Urrego, 74, said she escaped certain death because she had traveled to Medellin for the long holiday weekend. She said her brother was killed along with his children and grandchildren.

"I said to my wife 'let's hold each and hope that God saves us,'" said Jorge Quintero, a local resident, describing to RCN TV how he was trapped between two raging currents that had taken with it two homes on either side of his own. "I know God gave us his hand because here we are, alive, still frightened, but alive." □



Residents rescue belongings from houses damaged during an avalanche in Salgar, in Colombia's northwestern state of Antioquia, Monday, May 18, 2015. At least 49 people were killed when a mudslide triggered by heavy rains swept away homes before dawn.

(AP Photo/Luis Benavides)

52 people in a flash flood and mudslide triggered by heavy rains.

Residents were stirred from bed in the dead of the night by a loud rumble and neighbors' shouts of "The river! The river!" as modestly built homes and bridges plunged into the Libordiana ravine. Survivors barely had enough time to gather their loved ones.

"It was rocks and tree trunks everywhere," Diego Agudelo told The Associat-

cluding the back part of his home.

The disaster hit around 3 a.m. local time (4 a.m. EDT; 0800 GMT) in the town of Salgar, about 60 miles (100 kilometers) southwest of Medellin.

Dozens of rescuers supported by Black Hawk helicopters evacuated residents near the ravine for fear of another mudslide. A red fire truck could be seen hauling away several bodies, their bare feet dangling

to Medellin to be identified. As giant diggers were removing debris he vowed to rebuild the lost homes and provide shelter and assistance for the estimated 500 people affected by the calamity.

"Nobody can bring back the dead ... but we have to handle this disaster as best we can to move forward," Santos said.

Authorities said that 52 people were confirmed dead but that the number could

Reduced child abuse verdict causes uproar in Argentina

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina

(AP) — Two Argentine judges are under fire for reducing the sentence of a convicted child abuser on the grounds that his 6-year-old victim had suffered earlier abuse and therefore had already been traumatized. In the newly publicized 2014 ruling, the judges cut the sentence of Mario Tolosa, a sports club vice president, from six years to 38 months. They ruled that his acts should not be considered "gravely outrageous" in legal terms because the boy already "was making a precocious choice" of his sexuality, apparently a reference to homosexuality.

Other attorneys criticized the decision and the Argentine Federation of Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals and Trans has demanded the judges be removed from the bench for a ruling it said placed a 6-year-old victim "in the position of a suspect." One of the two judges, Horacio Piombo, defended the ruling Monday in interviews with Radio La Red and the television station Todo Noticias, saying that before Tolosa molested him, the child already had suffered "the initiation by his father into the worst of worlds, leading him to depravation."

He said that "as a result of that experience with the father, the child had showed 'signs of a transvestite conduct, of conduct we had to take into account.'"

Piombo said the nearly year-old ruling had been leaked in an attempt to discredit him and his colleague Benjamin Ramon Sal Llagues. □

Behind bars, ex-mayor wins Venezuela primary

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)

— Daniel Ceballos may be in jail, but he's also on the ballot for Venezuela's legislative elections.

The former mayor of San Cristobal is among the winners of Sunday's opposition

coalition primaries. They chose 42 of the 167 candidates who will compete against the governing socialist party.

Ceballos was arrested last year for refusing to help the government put down a

wave of street protests that were fed in part by anger over crime, inflation and shortages.

The coalition is hoping that dissatisfaction will carry over into the ballot box when elections are held

later this year. It sees the vote as its best chance in years to win a majority in the country's legislature.

Other candidates are being selected in negotiations among leaders of the 29-party coalition. □

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ARUBA WINE & DINE

Frustration with Latin America's left seen on the rise



Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro is seen on his arrival at Vnukovo airport in Moscow. Whether it's from corruption scandal or stagnant growth, the prospects for the crop of leftist Latin American presidents that have been running the region since the start of the millennium appear to be dimming.

(RIA Novosti Pool Photo via AP)

JOSHUA GOODMAN

Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)

— Venezuela's socialist government is struggling to put food on the shelves amid runaway inflation. Brazil's president is facing calls for impeachment. And even Cuba's communist government, an iconic touchstone for generations of leftists, is embracing closer ties with the U.S.

Whether it's because of corruption scandals or stagnant growth, the popularity of the crop of leftist Latin American governments that have been running the region since the start of the millennium appears to be waning. Voters who embraced what became known as the pink tide that swept away the pro-Washington, free-market policies dominant in the 1990s are increasingly turning against the populist firebrands they once rallied behind.

Across the region, polling numbers are tanking and street protests are on the rise.

Triggering the growing disenchantment are some serious economic headwinds. Most leaders came

into power just as China's economy was soaring and with it demand for South America's abundant natural resources. Now that the world's second-largest economy is cooling, the commodities boom that allowed governments to spread the wealth and endear themselves to the poor is ending.

"It's not easy to govern in Latin America right now," said Raul L. Madrid, co-editor of a 2010 book on leftist governments in the region. "Many of these governments rode frustration with high levels of inequality and corruption to power. But you can't rail against the establishment as effectively as you once did when you are the establishment at this point."

No leader has been harder hit than Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro.

When his mentor, the late Hugo Chavez, took power in 1999, the international price of oil — which funds the bulk of spending in the oil-rich nation — was under \$10 a barrel, and its rise to \$100 created a boom that lasted several years. But prices have plunged by

nearly half since July, exacerbating shortages and the world's fastest inflation as the government tight-fists dollars needed to pay down debt and import basic goods.

Maduro's approval ratings have tumbled to 28 percent, near the lowest in 16 years of socialist rule, and while there's no sign the sometimes violent street protests that overwhelmed the country a year ago will return anytime soon, polls indicate that the opposition will coast to victory in legislative elections expected to take place by year end.

Perhaps sensing the troubles of his closest ally, Cuban President Raul Castro in December agreed to talks with the U.S. aimed at normalizing relations, a move expected to fuel growth in the communist-run economy. Currently, Venezuela provides Cuba with the bulk of the oil it consumes at subsidized prices.

A string of headline-grabbing corruption scandals are also exposing the ethical breaches that befall many parties after more than a decade in power.

In Chile, the region's best-managed economy but

one highly dependent on copper exports, President Michelle Bachelet reshuffled her Cabinet recently to stem the fallout from revelations that her son used his influence to secure a favorable loan. It's one of the scandals that have prompted widespread outrage at the sway of money over politics, both for her Socialist Party and the opposition. When Bachelet, who served as president previously, left office for the first time in 2010 she enjoyed a whopping 84 percent approval rating.

Continued on Page 27



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Haiti grants appeal of abuse case against US man

DAVID McFADDEN

Associated Press

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)

— Haitian justice authorities are making plans for a new criminal trial against a U.S. citizen who has been accused of physically and sexually abusing boys in an orphanage that he has run for decades in the impoverished Caribbean country, a top government official and lawyers said Monday.

Michael Geilenfeld, an Iowa native and a former member of Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity group, opened the St. Joseph's Home for Boys in the Haitian capital in 1985.

He was arrested in September, but freed last month when a Haitian judge dismissed the case following a brief trial that was not attended by the five accusers, now

adults.

Justice Minister Pierre-Richard Casimir told The Associated Press that an appeal filed by lawyers for the alleged victims, allowing the case to be re-examined, has been granted.

Without disclosing specifics, he said Monday the prosecutor "didn't do the case correctly" and has since been sanctioned.

"There should be another

trial in this case," Casimir said in a phone interview.

Manuel Jeanty, a lawyer for the accusers, said he and his clients were not notified about the recent trial beforehand, but hope they "will see justice" in Haiti now that an appeal has been granted.

Defense lawyer Alain Lemithe said he and other attorneys are prepared to "go back to court to defend

Mr. Geilenfeld's interests."

He alleged that the government's decision to grant the appeal was made "under pressure," adding that "what they are doing is not illegal but it's very unusual." Geilenfeld's lawyers blame an email and blog campaign by U.S. activist Paul Kendrick of Freeport, Maine for their client's arrest, and for the granting of the appeal. □

Cuba's Elian Gonzalez, former castaway, wants to visit US

HAVANA (AP) — Elian Gonzalez, who spent months with his Florida relatives as a Cuban child at the center of an international custody dispute, said in an interview broadcast Monday that he'd like to return to the United States for a visit.

Now 21, Gonzalez told ABC News in an interview that if he could visit anywhere, it would be the U.S.

Gonzalez thanked the American people for the love they showed him during the custody battle 16 years ago, and said he would like to go back "to give my love to the American people."

He said he'd like to see a baseball game, visit Washington museums and talk to Americans.

"I could personally thank



Elian Gonzalez attends a ceremony at the National Assembly in Havana, Cuba. Gonzalez said during an ABC News interview that aired Monday, May 18, 2015, that if he could visit anywhere, it would be the United States so he could "give my love to (the) American people."

(AP Photo/Ramon Espinosa)

those people who helped us, who were there by our side. Because we're so grateful for what they did." ABC's images of Gonzalez captured over several days showed him first with a beard, then clean-shaven. Gonzalez is a local celebrity on the island and was a military cadet when he was in his late teens. He is now studying industrial engineering at the university in the Cuban province of Matanzas, west of the capital.

According to the interview, he recently became engaged to be married.

He was just a few weeks shy of 6 when his mother, Elizabeth Brotons, died at sea in 1999 while trying to take him to the U.S.

Gonzalez survived by cling-

ing to an inner tube and was rescued on the high sea, eventually ending up with Florida relatives who fought to keep him in the United States.

"I was alone in the middle of the sea, that's the last thing I remember," Gonzalez said. He said he was moved by his mother's efforts to keep him afloat while he drowned.

"She fought until the very last minute to keep me alive," he said.

The tug-of-war between Gonzalez's U.S. relatives and his father ensued, with then-president Fidel Castro siding with the boy's surviving parent Juan Gonzalez and the Miami-based Cuban exile community backing family members in Florida. □

US agents kill suspected smuggler off British Virgin Islands

TORTOLA, British Virgin Islands (AP) — A suspected drug smuggler was shot and killed by U.S. agents during a chase off the British Virgin Islands, officials said Monday.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection said its agents were fired upon late Sunday night in the waters of

the British Caribbean territory as they chased a boat suspected of being used to transport drugs. The agents returned fire, wounding the suspect, then boarded the vessel and provided medical care, the agency said in a terse statement.

The suspect was later pronounced dead at a local

hospital, according to the statement. Two other suspects were taken into custody by the Royal Virgin Islands Police Force. They also seized the boat and 30 bales of what is believed to be cocaine. A U.S. Customs and Border Protection spokesman declined to provide the nationalities

of the suspects or to provide other details, citing an ongoing investigation. The Royal British Virgin Islands Police Force also declined to provide information beyond a brief statement confirming the incident. U.S. anti-drug patrols can enter the waters of the British Virgin Islands, east of

Puerto Rico, under a bilateral agreement between the two countries. This part of the northeastern Caribbean has seen a resurgence of drug smuggling in recent years as drug trafficking organizations seek to bypass the traditional route through Mexico to reach the United States. □



Executive Chef Urvin from White Modern Cuisine and The Kitchen Table Takes You on a Culinary Journey in Aruba



--Aruba's first modern cuisine restaurant thriving in its third year.

PALM BEACH - Chef Urvin Croes, born and raised in Aruba, graduated from culinary school and went on to gain experience in Michelin star restaurants in Europe. He returned to Aruba because he had a dream to open Aruba's first fine dining, modern gourmet cuisine restaurant. With the opening of White Modern Cuisine in 2012, that dream came true.

The modern fine dining concept was new to Aruba, and for the first few months it was a challenging time. Thanks to Chef Urvin's outstanding dishes and Mary-Anne's determination, they are now proud, but humbled, to be considered one of Aruba's top dining establishments with glowing reviews, receiving the award for #1 modern cuisine restaurant on Aruba.

White Modern Cuisine's menu changes every three months, with the exception

of a few dishes that are so popular they have earned themselves a fan following on TripAdvisor and Facebook.

The Hoisin Glazed Duck appetizer is one of the wildly popular dishes that has been on the menu since the opening in 2012, served with Apple and Orange Compote, Pickled Cucumbers, Crispy Rice Chips, Hoisin Maple Glaze and Peanut Butter Powder.

Another fixed entrée is Lamb prepared 2 ways, served with Pan-Seared Lamb, Lamb Croquette, Corn Puree, Corn Chips, Sous Vide Garlic Potatoes, Roasted Eggplant, Pico de Gallo, Glazed Baby Corn, and Chimichurri Sauce. It's amazing how these tastes vary, eating elements separately or in combination with others.

The one dessert item that has been around since opening day is the Choco-

late Lava Cake, served with Marinated strawberries, strawberry gel, strawberry macaroons, strawberry chip, chocolate powder, and Ferrero Ice Cream, Mary-Anne's personal favorite.

Consider a wine pairing to perfectly complement your dinner. For the adventurous among you, you can also choose the cocktail pairing. Try the famous White Mojito, one will never be enough.

Highly recommended is also The Kitchen Table by White, chef Urvin's latest venture. The Kitchen Table by White offers a fixed menu, 8-course dinner experience, which can be enhanced with an optional wine pairing. This upscale new restaurant features Caribbean dishes, elevated to haute cuisine by Chef Urvin and has received many glowing reviews since opening last

year. Recently, The Kitchen Table was named #1 Caribbean restaurant his year by USA Today.

White Modern Cuisine is conveniently located on the second floor of Palm Beach Plaza Mall, within walking distance of the high rise hotels. Reservations can be made through their website <http://www.whitecuisine.com/reservation/> or by calling 586-1190 or through your hotel concierge.

For more information on The Kitchen Table, please visit www.thekitchentablebywhite.com or call 528-7015, or reach out to your hotel concierge.

If you are a foodie, and look forward to an evening where you can sit back, relax and take your time to enjoy the best cuisine and wines Aruba has to offer, White Modern Cuisine and The Kitchen table by White is for you. □



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Summer Looks Refreshing with Hollywood Smokehouse's Front Porch Cocktails

EAGLE BEACH – Aruba's critically-acclaimed smokehouse, the Hollywood Smokehouse, has made a big splash on Aruba's culinary scene since it debuted its Eagle Beach loca-

guests on the island—their handcrafted cocktails are hugely popular, and have been featured on two international television programs. Their signature Bourbonwood—a deceptively

Tina Causey-Bislick, as their Front Porch Cocktails. "I am from North Carolina, and nothin' could be finer than sitting on your front porch in the summer with a glass of ice-cold, freshly squeezed

real Carolina moonshine), The Acai Cosmo, and the Aruba Aloe (yes, with aloe juice!). Says head bartender Danovick van der Linden, "we use fresh fruits and herbs in our crafted

unique, and dynamic cocktail experience." The Hollywood Smokehouse is open for dinner at 5pm on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, and for lunch and dinner at noon



tion at Alhambra Casino & Shops last June. But it's not just the authentic southern low-and-slow brisket, pulled pork, ribs, and fish that are capturing the hearts and appetites of locals and

potent cocktail made with fresh squeezed lemonade and blackberries paired with Elderflower and bourbon—is joined by several other cocktails affectionately referred to by owner

lemonade with a southern kick of bourbon!" New to the series are the Blueberry Ginger Fizz (made with their house-made ginger beer), the Peach Moon and the Farmer's Moon (made with

cocktails, and also house-infuse many of our liquors with fresh, natural ingredients—no bottled mixers and high fructose syrups... it really does make the end-result a memorable,

on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday (closed Mondays). Pull up a seat on their front porch or dine inside. For more information or to make reservations, call 280-9989. □



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Hoisin Glazed Duck



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www.facebook.com/WhiteModernCuisine




Barney's Bar & Restaurant: "Food And Fun For Everyone!"

PALM BEACH - Barney's Bar & Restaurant is located in the Palm Beach/Noord area, an easy walk from the high rise area or short drive from the low rise area. Barney's is family friendly opened Monday through Saturday from 5pm until 11pm.

During the month of May Barney's is offering their "Early Bird Special" all night long! You will have a 3 course menu choice of: Soup or your choice or Caesar Salad, main course choice of their famous BBQ Ribs with coleslaw, salad and fries, or Parmesan Grouper with fresh veggies and Dutch potatoes, or



Can Eat Ribs, Friday night is All You Can Eat Sliders night and Saturday night is All You Can Eat Steak night. Here's what recent visitors have to say on TripAdvisor about Barney's Bar & Restaurant:

ommend. Also, there is entertainment - we enjoyed hearing it when we were inside but we couldn't hear outside. Very friendly and efficient staff and highly recommend for an evening out." --Reviewed February 10, 2015 by Myrish, Chicago IL.

--"Easily reached from the high rise area, this was a neat restaurant with a definite Dutch flavor. Nightly specials and wide variety on the menu." --Reviewed April 13, 2015 by Swimmersmom14, Silver Springs MD.

--"They have many different theme nights, loved the Schnitzel night and my wife loved the all you can eat Ribs night. Ask for Ilse as your server, she is great!"

--Reviewed April 1, 2015 by Golderd.

--"After 15 years of vacations in Aruba we have dined in most of the restaurants on the Island worthy of a visit. Our timeshare has evolved from 2 weeks to our current 4 weeks so over those many years we have witnessed many changes in the dining scene. Tourism is the primary if not the only source of income for the Aruban resident so if you're in the restaurant business you better be good or you most certainly will be gone. We heard about Barneys from a friend and then from another friend so we decided to give it a shot. We were a party of 6 and were seated on time. We were told that the sirloin tips with

roasted veggies and gravy were very good and that's what 3 of us ordered. The other entree that was touted was the grouper crusted with cheese which is what our wives ordered. No risk takers in our group. My sirloin tips were great and all who went with that meal agreed it was tasty and a good portion. My wife and the other 2 women raved about the grouper. I tasted my wife's and it was very good. Our meal was very good and reasonably priced. In fact Barney's is one of 2 restaurants that we visited twice during our 4 weeks on the island and we can't wait to return next year.--Reviewed March 30, 2015, by JackF, New York, NY.

Walk-ins are welcomed if seats are available but it really is necessary now-a-days to make a reservation to insure you have a table. You can contact your concierge desk at your hotel/ time share or call them directly at 586-5420. Feel free to check them out on Facebook at Barneys Restaurant to see what's going on.

So, what are you waiting for? MAKE THAT RESERVATION TODAY!!!!☐



Barney's Beef Tips sautéed with mushrooms, onions and served with mixed salad and white rice. For dessert Dame Blanche, vanilla ice cream with hot chocolate sauce and whipped cream.

Every night there are daily specials, fresh fish and their special "Theme" nights. Monday night is All You Can Eat Fajitas, Tuesday night is Schnitzel Night, Wednesday night is Grouper Night, Thursday night is All You

taurant:

--"This restaurant was recommended by fellow beach goers and we were glad they told us about it. We wound up going there 3 times in 2 weeks! We had the fish on 2 occasions and ribs the other. We sat outside twice the place was so busy. Make a reservation, since the people were just pouring in. Nightly specials more in a serving than you could eat. Everything was very good and highly recommended."



Paseo Herencia Shopping Mall Demonstrates Community Spirit!

PALM BEACH - On Saturday, May 16, the management of Paseo Herencia Shopping Mall initiated a once-a-week program to

raise awareness regarding the missions of Aruba's various foundations, and their need for community support. The program be-

gan with a spotlight on Family First Foundation, established in February of 2013. Each month, a different foundation and the important work they do will be showcased in the Plaza Padu one night a week.

The objective of Family First is "to help strengthen and restore families and individuals from dependency to a healthy interdependency." They work as closely as possible to the actual family, "to make the entry-level contact as low, stress-less and fulfilling as possible," thus fostering "healthy families for a prosperous Aruba."

Paseo Herencia Marketing and PR Manager Candy Rasmijn-Reino was very pleased to introduce this new project and Family First Managing Director Jennie Lion Sjin Tjoe. The mall also welcomed one of the families in their program, illustrating how they have benefited from



consulting the foundation. They were all treated to a lovely dinner from Le Bistro. For the remainder of May, the Paseo Herencia staff and vendors look forward to welcoming new families each week as special guests.

"This is only the beginning," explained Mrs. Rasmijn-Reino. "It has always been a policy of mall management and owners to be involved in community affairs on several levels. We are well known for en-

couraging excellence in our youth and showcasing their accomplishments, but now we wish to applaud those that work selflessly to improve the lives of others. Our tenants have responded enthusiastically in our request for their cooperation and involvement, and we look forward to hosting many special evenings for those who work hard to make life better for islanders suffering hard times, and those who have benefited from their efforts." □



Catch your own dinner with Driftwood!

Motto at Driftwood Restaurant: "from the pier to your plate!"



ORANJESTAD - The downtown marina is home of Driftwood Fishing Charters, the successful fisherman of the established seafood restaurant Driftwood in Oranjestad. Driftwood owner Herby

Merryweather has a love and passion for fishing. A fisherman who knows about fish, what our local waters have to offer, and what the words "fresh seafood" really mean. What Herby catches will be served in his restaurant on the same day. Herby loves to share his fishing passion with the many visitors to the island. His fleet of a 35ft. Twin Engine Bertram yacht and a 50ft. Twin Engine Post yacht, appropriately called "Driftwood I and II, is available for charters on 12 noon and from 1pm to 5pm.



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A charter includes: captain, mate all fishing equipment, bait, sodas and bottled water. On a full day charter sandwiches and snacks are also included.

You can call Herby directly at (297) 592 4040 or go to www.driftwoodaruba.com

Driftwood Restaurant. This authentic Aruban seafood restaurant is located in characteristic downtown Oranjestad. Their

extended menu has been jubled by many. Driftwood offers daily specials, as well as a delicious 4-course menu for just \$25.95 **Charter deep sea fishing rates:** \$400 - 1/2 day • \$760 - full day. Rates per boat Max. 6 people. **Driftwood Restaurant** Authentic Aruban Seafood Restaurant; Klipstraat #12, Downtown Oranjestad. Tel: (297) 583 2515 www.driftwoodaruba.com Open hours: every day, from 5pm till 10:30pm. Sunday Closed.





Milwaukee Brewers manager Craig Counsell scratches his head during the eighth inning of a baseball game against the Los Angeles Dodgers Tuesday, May 5, 2015, in Milwaukee.

Associated Press

For more skippers, no prior managing experience required

By GENARO C. ARMAS
AP Sports Writer

MILWAUKEE (AP) -- Craig Counsell played 15 years in the majors, scouted and has worked with minor league players and coaches. But he never coached or managed in the minors or majors before taking over as Milwaukee's manager for Brewers general manager Doug Melvin.

Counsell is one of the latest additions to a recent crop of big league skippers who are showing that prior managerial experience isn't necessarily required.

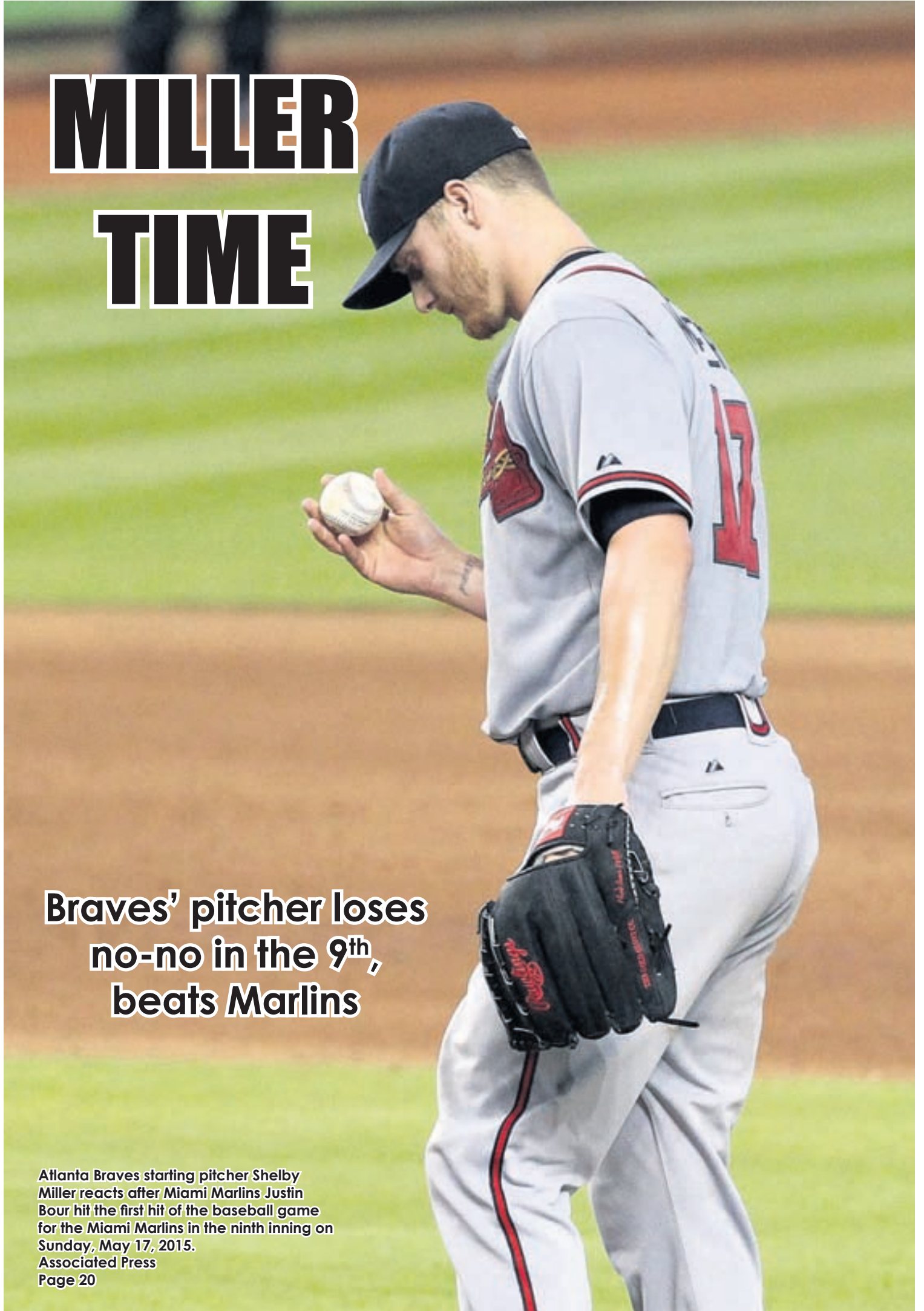
"I've always said baseball, we as an industry, we don't do a great job of necessarily grooming guys," Melvin said. "It doesn't happen like it should sometimes."

Continued on page 22

MILLER TIME

Braves' pitcher loses no-no in the 9th, beats Marlins

Atlanta Braves starting pitcher Shelby Miller reacts after Miami Marlins Justin Bour hit the first hit of the baseball game for the Miami Marlins in the ninth inning on Sunday, May 17, 2015.
Associated Press
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All-Star center Marc Gasol will consider free agency options

CLAY BAILEY
Associated Press

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — The Memphis Grizzlies head into the offseason with a major goal: re-signing their free agent All-Star center.

Marc Gasol is in no hurry, he's on his own timetable. He plans to take as much time as possible to consider all his options as one of this

free agent market's biggest targets.

"I've never been through it like that," Gasol said Monday. "Take it one day at a time and try to understand what the plan is for the next four or five years of my life." The 7-foot-1 center from Spain has been a pivotal player in the best five seasons in Grizzlies' history. But

as they cleaned out their lockers Monday after being eliminated in the Western Conference semifinals Friday night by Golden State, Gasol's future with the Grizzlies is unclear.

The Grizzlies have made it clear since last summer they want Gasol back, even before they could start talking to him about a new deal



Memphis Grizzlies center Marc Gasol (33) shoots against Golden State Warriors forward Draymond Green during the first half of Game 5 in a second-round NBA playoff basketball series in Oakland, Calif., Wednesday, May 13, 2015.

Associated Press




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in mid-December. Now he becomes a free agent July 1, and questions have been swirling for months on the teams eager to lure Gasol away from the town where he went to high school while his big brother, Pau, played for Memphis himself.

Gasol answered questions for more than 10 minutes, sidestepping a variety of inquiries on his decision. He said he has been busy evaluating the series loss to Golden State, not his pending contract situation. He said he can't see the future and can't imagine what it's going to be like.

He also made it clear his ties to Memphis go beyond basketball.

"My whole family has been here since 2001. The place I used to go watch basketball games is now a Bass Pro Shop," Gasol said of the Pyramid where the Grizzlies first played in Memphis.

His teammates are split between optimism and concern about Gasol's future. Point guard Mike Conley, considered Gasol's closest friend on the team, said he hasn't worried about it much.

"I think he's going to make the right decision," Conley said.

Defensive whiz Tony Al-

len said: "I hope he's still a Grizzly."

Gasol's decision will impact a busy offseason for the Grizzlies. Backup center Kosta Koufos's contract is up, and Jeff Green, obtained midseason from Boston, has a player option on his deal.

"It's just taking it day-by-day," Koufos said of his free agency. "I understand it's a business. I'm not looking too far ahead."

The Grizzlies should be, they need more outside shooting.

A swoon combined with injuries after the All-Star game dropped them from the No. 2 spot they held much of the season to the fifth seed facing top-seeded Golden State. The Warriors exposed Memphis' inability to ease the pressure on Gasol and power forward Zach Randolph.

Guard Courtney Lee, who led Memphis shooting 40 percent from outside the arc, said the team could use another player offensively.

"If people want more 3-point shooters and want more threes to go down, that's fine with me," Lee said. "I can't carry a whole team's load. I felt guys did shoot the ball well. I think when they say that, they want it to be like making 10 to 12 3-pointers a game." □

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AL Capsules

Volquez dominates as Royals roll past Yankees, 6-0

The Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Missouri (AP)

— Edinson Volquez (3-3) allowed just three hits over for seven innings, and Salvador Perez homered and drove in two runs as Kansas City won for the second time in the three-game series.

Chis Capuano (0-1) made his season debut after rehabbing a quadriceps strain sustained in spring training. The veteran left-hander gave up four runs, four hits and two walks, and left New York in a big hole when he was pulled four batters into the third inning. New York lost for the fifth time in six games and was shut out for the first time this season.

ORIOLES 3, ANGELS 0

BALTIMORE (AP) — Mike Wright (1-0) allowed four hits, struck out six and walked none in 7 1-3 innings in his major league debut. Brad Brach struck out the last two batters in the eighth, and Zach Britton worked the ninth for his eighth save.

Adam Jones scored on a wild pitch in the fourth inning and added a two-run double in the eighth to help Baltimore stop the Angels' five-game winning streak. Garrett Richards (3-2) gave up two runs and five hits in 7 2/3 innings.



Wearing the uniform of the former Negro League's Kansas City Monarchs, Kansas City Royals pitcher Edinson Volquez throws in the first inning of a baseball game against the New York Yankees in Kansas City, Mo., Sunday, May 17, 2015.

ASTROS 4, BLUE JAYS 2

HOUSTON (AP) — Collin McHugh (5-1) struck out nine in seven innings, allowing two runs and six hits as Houston won its fifth straight. He is 14-7 with a 2.80 ERA in his last 27 starts dating to last May 27.

Luis Valbuena and Colby Rasmus homered, and Luke Gregerson pitched the ninth for his 10th save. Mark Buehrle (5-3) gave up four runs and six hits in a season-high eight innings, his first complete game since July 25, 2013, against the Astros.

RAYS 11, TWINS 3

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Evan Longoria drove in three runs and had two of Tampa Bay's season-high 18 hits. Chris Archer (4-4) allowed one run and four hits in six innings, and Kyle Gibson (3-3) gave up three runs and eight hits in five innings.

RANGERS 5, INDIANS 1

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Mitch Moreland had a two-run homer after an earlier hit off the top of the wall as Texas avoided a three-game sweep.

After Moreland lined a double off the top of the right-

Associated Press

field wall in the second that produced the first Texas run, his drive estimated at 407 feet in the sixth just cleared the wall in center and made it 4-1.

Nick Martinez (3-0) allowed one run in five innings for his first victory in six starts. Carlos Carrasco (4-4) struck out nine in eight and gave up seven hits in Cleveland's first complete game this season.

MARINERS 5, RED SOX 0

SEATTLE (AP) — James Paxton (2-2) allowed five hits in eight innings, stretching his scoreless streak to

a career-best 20 innings, and Carson Smith pitched a perfect ninth.

Brad Miller homered for the third time in two games, and Kyle Seager added a two-run drive in the eighth. Steven Wright (1-1), starting in place of injured Justin Masterson, gave up three runs — two earned — and five hits in five innings.

WHITE SOX 7, ATHLETICS 3

OAKLAND, California (AP) — Avisal Garcia hit a two-run homer, Alexei Ramirez had two hits and two RBIs, and Jeff Samardzija (3-2) allowed three runs in eight innings as Chicago swept a series in Oakland for the first time in 18 years.

Jose Abreu and Gordon Beckham also drove in runs for the White Sox, who won their sixth straight for their longest winning streak in two years and reached .500 for the first time this season.

Oakland lost its fourth straight and fell to 1-12 in day games. Scott Kazmir (2-2) gave up five runs — three earned — and seven hits in 4 1-3 innings.

In other AL games it was Baltimore 3, L.A. Angels 0; Kansas City 6, N.Y. Yankees 0; Tampa Bay 11, Minnesota 3; Houston 4, Toronto 2; Texas 5, Cleveland 1; Chicago White Sox 7, Oakland 3; Seattle 5, Boston 0; and St. Louis 2, Detroit 1. □

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Braves' Miller flirt with no-hitter and beats Marlins 6-0

The Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — Shelby Miller's no-hit bid ended with two outs in the ninth inning Sunday when Justin Bour singled sharply up the middle, as the Atlanta Braves right-hander pitched a two-hitter in a 6-0 win over the Miami Marlins that completed a three-game sweep.

Miller (5-1) retired the first two batters in the ninth before Bour singled on the first pitch, a 95-mph fastball. Dee Gordon then reached on an infield single before Martin Prado popped out, ending the game.

Two hits weren't enough to satisfy Marlins owner Jeffrey Loria, who fired manager Mike Redmond shortly after the game. The Marlins are off to a 16-22 start after a busy offseason.

Redmond's replacement will be announced Monday, the Marlins said. Bench coach Rob Leary was also fired.

PIRATES 3, CUBS 0

CHICAGO (AP) — A.J. Burnett (3-1) worked around five walks while allowing three hits in seven innings as Pittsburgh stopped a four-game losing streak.

Jake Arrieta (4-4) gave up one run and five hits in seven innings, losing for the first time in five career decisions against the Pirates.

Francisco Cervelli had a hand in Pittsburgh's first two runs after the catcher was shaken up in the fourth when he was hit in the groin by a foul tip. He had an RBI single in the fifth, and then singled and scored on Neil Walker's two-out double in the eighth.

PHILLIES 6, DIAMOND-BACKS 0

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Sean O'Sullivan (1-2) allowed five hits in six innings for his first win in four years. He had been 0-9 with a 7.19



Atlanta Braves starting pitcher Shelby Miller throws to the Miami Marlins during the eighth inning of a baseball game in Miami, Sunday, May 17, 2015. The Braves won 6-0.

Associated Press

ERA in 13 starts and five relief appearances since winning at Yankee Stadium for Kansas City on May 12, 2011.

O'Sullivan was hit on the throat by a throw from his own catcher, Cameron Rupp, in the sixth and retired Aaron Hill on a flyout with his next and final pitch of the day.

Maikel Franco homered, tripled and drove in two runs for the Phillies, who have won five in a row for the first time since July.

Josh Collmenter (3-5) gave up four runs on six hits in six innings. Arizona has lost four straight.

DODGERS 1, ROCKIES 0

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Mike Bolsinger (2-0) pitched three-hit ball for six innings, striking out six. Kenley Jansen, who returned from the disabled list Friday after left foot surgery in February,

pitched a perfect ninth for the save.

Yasmani Grandal had an RBI single in the fourth off Kyle Kendrick (1-5) as the Dodgers salvaged a split. Each team had three hits.

GIANTS 9, REDS 8

CINCINNATI (AP) — Brandon Belt homered for the third time in three games, Nori Aoki drove in three runs and Hunter Pence homered in his second game back from a broken forearm.

The World Series champions, who built a 6-1 lead, won three straight games in Cincinnati for the first time since 2005 and at 20-18 moved two games over .500 for the first time since Yusmiero Petit (1-0) allowed one run and three hits in three innings, and Santiago Casilla struck out the side in the ninth for his ninth save.

Anthony DeSclafani (2-4)

gave up six runs, six hits and three walks in three innings.

METS 5, BREWERS 1

NEW YORK (AP) — Noah Syndergaard (1-1) earned his first major league win, allowing one run and three hits in six innings.

He hit Carlos Gomez on his helmet's left earflap with a 96 mph fastball in the sixth. Gomez said he did not sustain a concussion and hoped to play Monday night at Detroit.

Curtis Granderson hit a leadoff home run, Lucas Duda doubled twice and Michael Cuddyer drove in two runs to help the Mets win their second straight after a five-game skid.

Wily Peralta (1-5) gave up five runs and nine hits in five innings.

CARDINALS 2, TIGERS 1

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Kolten Wong hit a tiebreaking home run in the sixth in-

ning and Lance Lynn got his fifth career RBI to back his dominant pitching as St. Louis avoided a three-game sweep.

Miguel Cabrera's RBI double in the first was the only damage against Lynn (3-3), who gave a weary bullpen a break before walking the last two batters he faced at the end of his 7 1-3 innings. Seth Maness' only pitch got a double-play ball to end the eighth and Trevor Rosenthal finished for his 13th save.

Matt Carpenter added two hits and Peter Bourjos tripled and scored on Lynn's single in the third. The Cardinals improved to a major league-best 25-12 despite having two players thrown at the plate.

Alfredo Simon (4-2) gave up two runs in six innings for the Tigers, whose three-game winning streak ended.

NATIONALS 10, PADRES 5

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Stephen Strasburg (3-4) rebounded from a rough start to beat his hometown Padres for the fourth straight time, allowing three runs and five hits in five-plus innings. Bryce Harper and Danny Espinosa hit three-run homers, with Harper raising his league-leading, home-run total to 14, as Washington won for the 15th time in 19 games.

Justin Upton homered twice for the Padres, raising his season total to 10. Ian Kennedy (2-3) gave up six runs, three hits and four walks in five innings.

In other NL games it was Atlanta 6, Miami 0; N.Y. Mets 5, Milwaukee 1; San Francisco 9, Cincinnati 8; Philadelphia 6, Arizona 0; Pittsburgh 3, Chicago Cubs 0; L.A. Dodgers 1, Colorado 0; Washington 10, San Diego 5; and St. Louis 2, Detroit 1. □

Miguel Cabrera and other HR leaders _ by country



Detroit Tigers' Miguel Cabrera follows through on an RBI double during the first inning of a baseball game against the St. Louis Cardinals Sunday, May 17, 2015, in St. Louis. Associated Press

NOAH TRISTER

AP Baseball Writer

Miguel Cabrera hit his 400th home run over the weekend, and that milestone was more than just another round number. Cabrera also took over the career lead in major league home runs by players born in Venezuela, moving one ahead of Andres Galarraga. In fact, Cabrera has now hit more homers than any other native of South America.

The record holder among players born in Asia is Japan's Hideki Matsui, who hit 175. South Korea's Shin-soo Choo may be able to catch Matsui at some point. He's at 123.

As for players born in Europe, that's a trickier question. Bobby Thomson of Shot Heard 'Round the World fame hit 264 home runs. That puts the Glasgow, Scotland native at No. 1 — unless we count Andruw Jones, who hit 434. Jones was born on the Caribbean island of Curaçao, which is part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. For what it's worth, the International Baseball Federation includes Curaçao in its rankings as part of the Americas. Jones has played for the Netherlands at the World Baseball Classic.

Here's a look at a few other home run races by country — special thanks to STATS for help with the research: Dominican Republic: Sammy Sosa hit 609, making him the career leader in homers among players born outside the United States. Albert Pujols (526)

may surpass his countryman eventually.

Canada: Larry Walker is the leader at 383. Justin Morneau (241) is No. 1 among active players.

Cuba: Rafael Palmeiro tops the list with 569, and active leader Kendrys Morales (114) is well behind. Jose Abreu and Yoenis Cespedes probably didn't



San Francisco Giants manager Bruce Bochy walks off the field after replacing the pitcher against the Cincinnati Reds in the eighth inning of a baseball game in Cincinnati, Sunday, May 17, 2015. Associated Press

come to the majors at a young enough age to threaten Palmeiro, but if Cuban sluggers are able to start playing in the U.S. earlier in their careers, who knows?

Mexico: Vinny Castilla (320) is the record holder, and the active leader is actually pitcher Yovani Gallardo, who has hit 12.

Puerto Rico: Carlos Delgado (473) has the lead, with Carlos Beltran (375) probably too far behind to catch him.

Other leaders of note include Carlos Lee (358) of Panama and Chili Davis (350) of Jamaica. And the career leader in home runs by a player born in France? That's none other than San Francisco Giants manager Bruce Bochy, with 26.

Here are some other recent developments from around the majors:

CAUGHT UP

The Washington Nationals are only a half-game out of first place in the NL East, and they may have already played their worst stretch of baseball for 2015. The Nats were in last place, eight games behind the division-leading New York Mets, on the morning of April 28. Since then, Washington is 15-4 and looking

run after offseason knee surgery. The switch-hitter is 12 for 26 against left-handers and 12 for 81 against righties.

The Rockies lost Troy Tulowitzki (hip) and Carlos Gonzalez (knee) to season-ending injuries in 2014. Tulowitzki is off to a slow start this year by his standards, hitting .284 with two homers. Gonzalez is having an even rougher time of it, his average floundering

around .200.

Manny Machado of Baltimore picked up where he left off before knee surgery last year. He's hitting .276 with six home runs.

LINE OF THE WEEK

Corey Kluber, Indians, struck out 18 in eight one-hit innings Wednesday in a 2-0 win over St. Louis. This was probably the line of the week even if Shelby Miller had completed his no-hit bid Sunday. □



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2D VERSION
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SAT, SUN & HOL 3:00 | 6:00 | 9:00

HEATHER SOSSAMAN | MATTHEW BOHRER

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United States' forward Sydney Leroux, right, dives the ball past Mexico's goalkeeper Cecilia Santiago during the first half of their friendly soccer match, Sunday, May 17, 2015, at StubHub Center in Carson, Calif.

Associated Press

ANNE M. PETERSON

AP Sports Writer

CARSON, Calif. (AP) — Sydney Leroux realized what she'd been missing. Leroux made her first start of the year and scored twice in a 5-1 victory for the United States over Mexico on Sunday night. The forward started off 2015 with a right foot injury and had been working her way back into peak form.

"Coming out there and scoring those goals, it

made me miss scoring a lot," she said. "You don't realize it until it happens." Abby Wambach also scored twice in the second send-off match for the United States in advance of the Women's World Cup next month in Canada. Wambach, who came in as a substitute to start the second half, scored on a penalty kick in the 58th minute and added a header in the 72nd minute to bring her career total to

Leroux and Wambach each score twice, U.S. beats Mexico 5-1

182 goals. She has scored 24 goals against Mexico, the most has against any nation.

Lori Chalupny added a goal for the United States early in the second half. Ariana Calderon scored on a header for Mexico late in the first half, snapping Hope Solo's shutout streak at five matches. It was the first goal the U.S. conceded to Mexico since November 2010, when Las Tri surprised the Americans with a 2-1 victory in World Cup qualifying.

The Americans were playing without forward Alex Morgan, who has a bone bruise in her left knee. Morgan also may miss the final send-off match against South Korea at Red Bull Stadium in New Jersey on May 30.

"She's doing well. We still have not had her back in full training, but she's feeling better and we're going to keep it precautionary and be conservative with her through the end of this camp and potentially

through the next camp as well," coach Jill Ellis said.

Mexico goalkeeper Cecilia Santiago was the star early on, fending off two tremendous attempts by Megan Rapinoe in the 14th minute. Santiago played during the 2011 World Cup at age 16, becoming the youngest women's player to appear in goal in a tournament match.

Leroux scored from a seemingly impossible angle in the 28th minute, for her first goal in 14 matches, to put the United States up 1-0. It was her 34th career goal.

"She's gotten herself fit," Ellis said about Leroux. "I said coming into this camp, I just sense the focus in her. She's been training really well, deserved the start and she did great."

Nayeli Rangel got a shot off when Solo was occupied in the 36th minute, but it went slightly wide of the far post. Las Tri evened it just before the half on Calderon's header.

Chalupny entered the game to start the second half and scored on her first

touch, with a feed from Wambach in the 46th minute, to put the Americans up 2-1.

After Wambach took advantage of the penalty kick when Arianna Romero was called for a handball, Leroux added her second on a fast break in the 61st minute. Wambach's header closed out scoring.

"Obviously I'm happy to get on the field and get the minutes any way I can, but more than that I'm happy to contribute and score goals," Wambach said.

Earlier this week, both teams played closed-door matches against Canada, which also was training in Southern California.

Canada beat Mexico 1-0 on Thursday.

A day earlier, Canada and the United States played to a 1-1 draw. Because the matches were closed, they do not count as international friendlies.

It is the policy of U.S. Soccer not to comment on such matches, but Ellis said she was pleased with her team's performance. □

SKIPPERS

Continued from page 17

The typical paths to becoming a big league skipper used to wind through minor league outposts while climbing organizational ladders. Others might bide time as trusted coaches on major league staffs.

Counsell, a 44-year-old baseball lifer, earned the Brewers job with his penchant for preparation and organizational know-how. Cardinals manager Mike Matheny and White Sox skipper Robin Ventura took similar paths back to the dugout. Both are in their fourth seasons.

"These were all players that commanded respect as teammates," Melvin said this week. "I think when you ask around, most players will say they were great teammates."

Walt Weiss, in his third year with Colorado, and Brad



Dan Jennings, the new Miami Marlins new manager, stands on the playing field before his first baseball game against the Arizona Diamondbacks, Monday May 18, 2015 in Miami.

Associated Press

Ausmus, in his second season with Detroit, also got their jobs without having previously managed or coached in the majors or minors.

And the Miami Marlins turned to general manager Dan Jennings - who only briefly briefly coached high school in Mobile, Alabama, in the 1980s - to manage

the club after firing Mike Redmond on Sunday. Jennings never played in the majors, but has been with the Marlins on the personnel side since 2002 and is in his second season as general manager.

They've all been involved with baseball most of their lives, with varying degrees of experience in front of-

fices.

Former players with managerial aspirations may not be eager to manage in the minors first or become a coach because they've made a lot of money as a player, Tigers general manager Dave Dombrowski said.

"You have to be open-minded to evolving changes," said Dombrowski, who hired Ausmus to replace Jim Leyland in 2014.

Ausmus was previously a special assistant for three seasons for the San Diego Padres. A 22-year veteran, Leyland had already managed 14 years with three different teams - mostly with the Pirates - by the time he had arrived in Detroit in 2006.

Counsell's predecessor, Ron Roenicke, had several managerial and coaching stops on his resume. He spent 10 years as a coach for Mike Scioscia with the Los Angeles Angels before

getting the Brewers job in 2011.

It's the same year that Counsell ended his 15-year playing career, finishing up in Milwaukee.

Roenicke was fired on May 3 following the team's 7-18 start. In came Counsell, a special assistant to Melvin since 2012.

His organizational knowledge could come in handy. The last-place Brewers could start turning over their veteran-laden roster if they can't make a dramatic push to get back into the competitive NL Central race.

Melvin said Counsell's recent playing experience helps him relate with today's players. Counsell has played with seven players on the Brewers roster. The clean-shaven, youthful-looking Counsell looks fit in uniform, as if he could still handle a hard smash at short. □

Court agrees Samsung copied Apple, but tosses some damages

BRANDON BAILEY

AP Technology Writer
SAN FRANCISCO (AP) A federal appeals court has upheld a jury's finding that Samsung illegally copied some patented features in Apple's iPhone, but it sided with Samsung on one point that could reduce the \$930 million in damages the South Korean company had been ordered to pay. The ruling, coming three years after an epic courtroom battle between two tech industry giants, could mean yet another trial over a portion of damages representing more than a third of the total award. Legal experts, however, say the rivals may be more inclined to negotiate a settlement this time around.

"When this case was first filed, it was a big deal. But I don't think the litigation has served all the purposes that Apple and Samsung originally desired," said Michael Carrier, a Rutgers law professor who has followed the dispute closely. In its decision Monday, the U.S. Federal Circuit Court of Appeals upheld most of the findings made by a California federal jury in 2012. The jury concluded that several models of Samsung smartphones and tablets had illegally copied the iPhone and infringed on some of Apple's patents for technology and design including touch-screen controls that let users "pinch" or "double-tap" to shrink or enlarge an image. Although it upheld the patent claims, the Washington, D.C.-based appeals court said Apple wasn't entitled to damages for its claims that Samsung had copied the iPhone's "trade dress" or overall appearance.

The long-running case was one of several lawsuits in which Apple, Samsung and other tech companies locked horns in a global battle for pre-eminence in the smartphone market. Today the smartphone business is still booming, but the battles have largely shifted away from the legal arena. While Apple won large



monetary awards by arguing that Samsung copied some of its products, it had less success in persuading courts to issue injunctions that would have kept Samsung's versions off the market. But since then, the California company's latest iPhone models have been phenomenally popular and profitable while Samsung has lost ground in key markets to competitors ranging from Apple to China's Xiaomi.

Samsung and Apple agreed last year to settle all patent disputes still pending outside the United States. Some experts believe the companies were awaiting the outcome of appeals in two U.S. cases before settling here. Monday's ruling orders a trial court in San Jose, California, to reconsider about \$382 million in damages that jurors previously awarded for the "trade dress" claims, which involved six models of Samsung phones. Santa Clara University law professor Brian Love said Apple could still argue it's entitled to those damages, however, since the same models were also found to have infringed on patents. The same case has already seen one retrial: After a judge cut \$450 million from an original damage award of more than \$1 billion. □

CEO: Nissan will be ready with autonomous driving by 2020

YURI KAGEYAMA

AP Business Writer
YOKOHAMA, Japan (AP) —

Nissan Motor Co. will have vehicles packed with autonomous driving technology by 2020 but whether people will be able to drive them on roads is up to government regulators, Chief Executive Carlos Ghosn said Monday. Many of the world's automakers, and companies outside the auto industry such as Google, are working on technologies that allow cars to navigate without human intervention.

Ghosn said good progress is being made toward the Japanese automaker's goal of delivering that technology by 2020.

"Our cars will be ready," he said.

The bigger hurdle for such vehicles becoming readily available to consumers is approval from regulators around the world, he told reporters at Yokohama headquarters.

Ghosn said autonomous driving was sure to be part of the cars of the future because market studies with consumers, especially younger drivers, who will



Nissan Motor Co. Chief Executive Carlos Ghosn speaks to reporters at the automaker's headquarters in Yokohama, near Tokyo, Monday, May 18, 2015.

Associated Press

determine future cars, show that is what they want, along with connectivity and zero, or very low, emissions.

Connectivity means accessing the Internet, seeing movies and duplicating in the vehicle the other experiences a person has at home or in the office, Ghosn said.

On zero emissions, he reiterated that Nissan is banking on electric cars, rather than other zero-emissions technologies, for the near-term future. Nissan makes the Leaf electric car.

Ghosn said Nissan sees autonomous vehicles as adding to driving pleasure, and a totally driver-less car is not at the center of the automaker's plans.

The autonomous driving Nissan foresees will assist or enhance driving, he said. Nissan may end up with a driverless car, but that was not the automaker's goal, he said.

"That is the car of the future," he said.

"But the consumer is more conservative," he said. "That makes us cautious." □

Endo buying Par for \$8B in push for generics, higher profit

LINDA A. JOHNSON

AP Business Writer

TRENTON, N.J. (AP) — Drug-maker Endo International PLC is climbing toward the top of the steadily consolidating generic medicine business with a deal to buy Par Pharmaceutical Holdings Inc. for about \$8.05 billion.

The deal would enable Dublin-based Endo to leapfrog from No. 10 to No. 5

in U.S. generic drug sales barely five years after its first foray into generics.

It appears to be the latest maneuver in a battle for pricing power that pits drugmakers against payers such as insurers and pharmacy benefit managers.

Recent consolidation has reduced the number of generic drug manufacturers and is driving shortages — and accompanying price

spikes — of some generic drugs. Meanwhile, brand-name drugmakers are consolidating and in some cases swapping assets as they aim to increase revenue growth, cut costs and boost profits.

Drugmakers of all kinds are trying to counter the increasing leverage of several payers with huge market share. In the U.S., that includes the biggest health

insurers and two pharmacy benefit managers, Express Scripts Holding Co. and CVS Health Corp. In other developed countries, national health programs for several years have been demanding increasing discounts off rates already far below U.S. prices and now are balking at astronomical prices for the newest drugs, particularly for cancer and hepatitis C. Endo, whose

branded products include pain treatment Opana ER and numbing agent Lido-derm, got into generics with its 2010 purchase of Qualitest, then bought generic makers Boca in 2013 and Dava last June. On Monday, Endo said it expects its generic unit will see double-digit revenue growth when it adds Par, which is based in Woodcliff Lake, New Jersey. □

Wall Street closes higher for third day; Dow, S&P at records

KEN SWEET

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The stock market crept to a record high in a quiet session on Monday.

Investors had little news to weigh because most major companies have finished reporting first-quarter results.

The Dow Jones industrial average added 26.32 points, or 0.1 percent, to 18,298.88. The Standard & Poor's rose 6.47 points, or 0.3 percent, to 2,129.20 and the Nasdaq composite rose 30.15 points, or 0.6 percent, to 5,078.44.

Among the winners was Apple, which rose \$1.42, or 1 percent, to \$130.19. Activist investor Carl Icahn published a letter Monday calling for the technology giant to buy back more of its own stock. Icahn said Apple is worth \$240 a share. Apple and Icahn have fought the last couple of years, but Icahn has been mostly successful at getting Apple to increase its share buybacks and dividends

recently. While the S&P 500 has notched record highs for three straight days, strategists caution that it will be difficult for the stock market to move substantially higher from here.

First-quarter results are tallied up, and the Federal Reserve appears to be waiting to raise interest rates until later this year.

"We will need to see a clear turnaround in the economic data and start to see earnings growth for investors to find some confidence in this market," said David Lebovitz, a global market strategist with JPMorgan Funds.

There were a couple minor corporate deals to work through. Ann Inc., the parent company of Ann Taylor and Loft, jumped \$7.69, or 20 percent, to \$46.40 after it agreed to be acquired by The Ascena Retail Group. Pharmaceutical company Endo International fell \$4.58, or 5.4 percent, to \$80.77 after it agreed to buy the privately held Par Pharmaceutical for \$8 bil-



Specialist Thomas Facchine, left, calls out prices as he works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. The stock market crept to a record high in a quiet session on Monday.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

lion.

In the energy markets, the price of oil fell for the fourth straight session Monday. Oil has been drifting lower on high supplies of crude and fuels, and a rising dollar has been making oil less attractive to overseas buyers.

Benchmark U.S. crude fell 26 cents to close at \$59.43 a barrel in New York. Brent crude, a benchmark for international oil used by many U.S. refineries, fell 54 cents to close at \$66.27 in London.

In other futures trading on

the NYMEX, wholesale gasoline fell 1.6 cents to close at \$2.041 a gallon, heating oil fell 1.8 cents to close at \$1.987 a gallon and natural gas fell 0.6 cent to close at \$3.010 per 1,000 cubic feet. U.S. government bond prices fell. □

Ascena goes shopping, buys Ann Taylor for more than \$2B

NEW YORK (AP) — The Ascena Retail Group is buying the owner of Ann Taylor and Loft in a deal valued at about \$2.16 billion.

Ann Taylor will join a stable of retail clothing stores owned by Ascena, including Lane Bryant, Justice, Dress Barn and Cacique, giving the combined company annual sales of \$7.3 billion.

A push for the sale of the Ann Inc. began in earnest last August when major

shareholders Engine Capital LP and its partner Red Alder LLC urged the board to put the company on the block. The retailer had suffered same-store sales declines in three of its past quarters as up-and-coming fast-casual clothing chains ate up market share.

The investors said in a letter to Ann's board that the company was an "incredibly suitable candidate" for private equity given the financial conditions at the

time, but also that a large international retailer could speed up the company's global brand expansion. That retailer made itself known Monday.

Though its name is not well known among shoppers, Ascena, based in Mahwah, New Jersey, owns about 3,900 stores under a number of names in the U.S. and Canada.

Ann had 1,030 Ann Taylor, Ann Taylor Factory, Loft, Loft Outlet and Lou & Grey

stores in 47 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and Canada.

The combined company could better enable it to weather the heavy discounting that has hampered the retail industry as competition heats up.

"The transaction will make us part of a larger organization with a diversified portfolio of brands focused on the women's apparel market, a strong operating platform and a powerful

financial base," said Ann CEO Kay Krill in a printed statement.

Ann shareholders will own about 16 percent of Ascena once the transaction closes. They'll get \$37.34 in cash and 0.68 of a share of Ascena Retail Group Inc. stock in exchange for each of their shares.

The companies put the total price at \$47 per share. That's a 21 percent premium to Ann Inc.'s Friday closing price of \$38.71. □

Crisis at Sea



NICHOLAS KRISTOF
© 2015 New York Times

One of the world's most beautiful regions, the seas of Southeast Asia - home to sparkling white beaches and \$7,000-a-night beach villas - is becoming a scene of a mass atrocity. Thousands of refugees from the persecuted Rohingya minority in Myanmar, fleeing modern concentration camps at home, have fled to sea in boats, and many have drowned. Fearing a crackdown, smugglers have abandoned some of those boats at sea, and neighboring countries are pushing the boats back to sea when they try to land. The Obama administration, which has regarded Myanmar as one of its diplomatic successes, is largely unhelpful as this calamity unfolds.

"The Andaman Sea is about to become a floating mass grave, and it's because of the failure of governments, including our own, to do what is necessary," says Tom Andrews, a former member of Congress who is president of United to End Genocide. "Not only is there not a search-and-rescue operation going on right now - with thousands out to sea - but governments are towing these people out from their shores back to open sea, which is tantamount to mass murder." One appalling chapter of World War II came when the SS St. Louis left Germany in 1939 full of Jewish refugees fleeing the Nazis. Cuba and the United States barred them from disembarking, and - after passing so close to Miami that passengers could see the lights on shore - the ship returned to Europe, where many died in the Holocaust.

Now refugees fleeing concentration camps are again denied landfall.

"We're talking about a flotilla of St. Louises, and people are going to die," Andrews told me.

Rohingyas are a Muslim minority reviled by the majority Buddhist population in Myanmar. The government has confined some 150,000 of them to 21st-century concentration camps: I visited these camps last year and wrote about starving children and camp inmates dying for lack of medical care.

On Wednesday, there were unconfirmed reports of 20 Rohingya-owned shops being burned down in Maungdaw in western Myanmar near the border with Bangladesh.

The United Nations says more than 130,000 Rohingyas have fled by sea since 2012. Many fall

prey to human smugglers who torture, rape and starve them in Thai camps until relatives pay ransom. The discovery of a mass grave this month from one such camp embarrassed Thai authorities into cracking down on human smugglers, leading the crews to abandon the ships, with their human cargo adrift at sea. Chris Lewa of The Arakan Project, a human rights group, said she has been in cellphone contact with two ships full of refugees, and she suspects there are more farther from land and thus out of cellphone range. One is drifting without engines or adequate food, and she, as a private citizen, has been frantically trying to organize a search-and-rescue effort to save the passengers - so far, unsuccessfully.

Come on! If a suspected terrorist were on board, intelligence agencies would use that cellphone number to locate that boat. But 350 desperate refugees adrift at sea, and we're going to shrug and let them drown? Governments are probably uninterested in rescuing refugees for fear they would then have to take them in. Thailand has long had a policy of sending refugee boats on their way, and Indonesia this week pushed two ships carrying hundreds of Rohingyas back to sea. As for Malaysia, "we won't let any foreign boats come in," an admiral said.

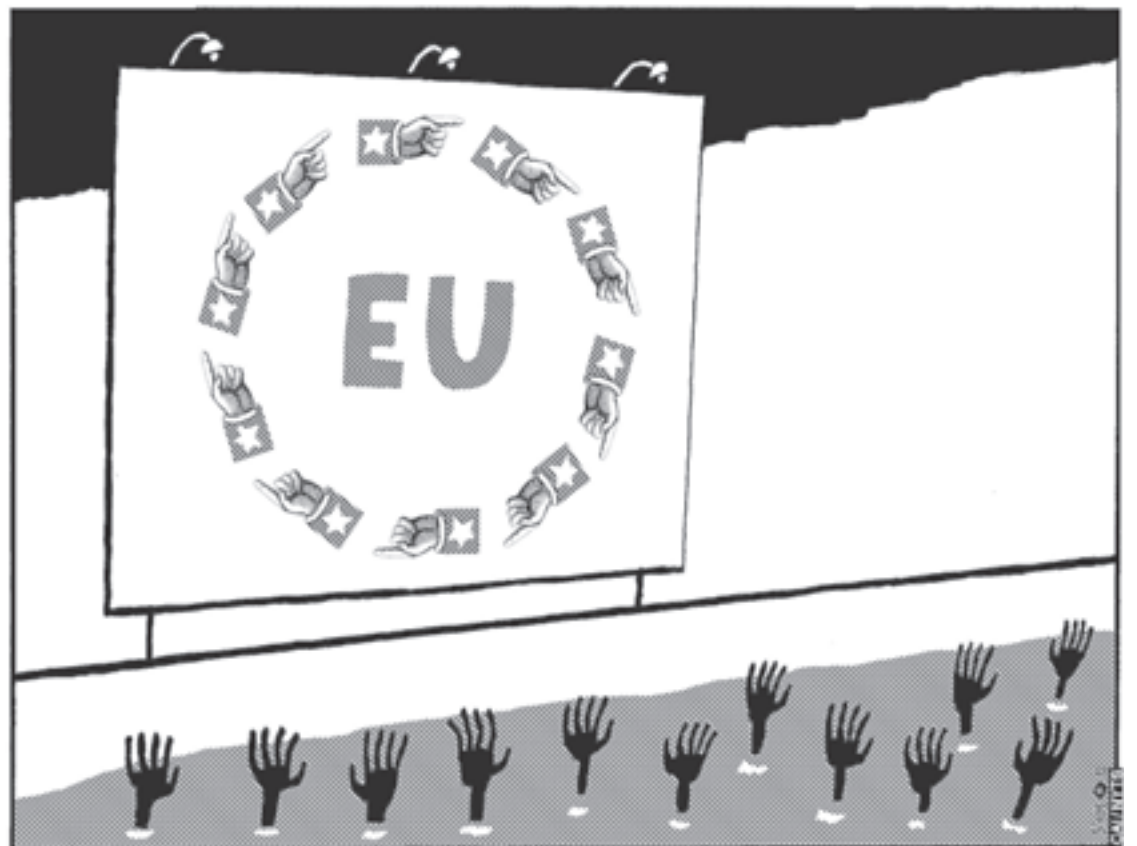
Europe also has a refugee crisis, but at least European countries are mounting search-and-rescue operations to try to save lives. What Southeast Asian governments are doing is the opposite. As a first step, President Barack Obama should call the leaders of Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia, urging them to rescue and shelter refugees. The United States can also use military and intelligence assets to locate drifting refugee ships and assist with search and rescue.

Obama must also make clear Myanmar cannot have a normal relationship with the United States as long as it engages in crimes against humanity. Just this month, the administration welcomed to the White House a senior official of the Myanmar government, Thura Shwe Mann, who has allied himself with extremist anti-Rohingya positions. In its statement afterward, the White House's press office even avoided using the word "Rohingya," apparently so as not to offend Myanmar.

That's craven, but what's worse is the way American and Asian officials alike seem determined to avert their eyes from atrocities in one of the world's most beautiful regions.

"People are dying at sea," said Matthew Smith of Fortify Rights, a human rights group that has done excellent work monitoring the Rohingyas. "We know that, right now. And it could worsen considerably in the coming weeks."

Contact Kristof at Facebook.com/Kristof, Twitter.com/Nick-Kristof or by mail at The New York Times, 620 Eighth Ave., New York, NY 10018. □



Wow, Jeb Bush Is Awful



GAIL COLLINS
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Let's discuss Jeb Bush's terrible week.

I'm really troubled by his awful performances, and I'm generally a person who takes bad news about politicians pretty well. For instance, a friend just sent me a story about the Texas agriculture commissioner's vow to bring deep-fried foods back to school cafeterias. ("It's not about French fries; it's about freedom.") I would classify this as interesting yet somehow not a shocking surprise.

But today we're talking about Jeb Bush. As a presidential hopeful, Bush's most attractive feature was an aura of competence. Extremely boring competence, perhaps. Still, an apparent ability to get through the day without demonstrating truly scary ineptitude.

Then, about a week ago, The Washington Post reported that during a private meeting with rich Manhattan financiers, Bush announced that his most influential adviser on Middle Eastern matters was his brother George. This was a surprise on many fronts. For one thing, Jeb had apparently missed the memo on how everything you say to potential donors at private meetings can wind up on an endless YouTube loop for all eternity.

Also, he had begun his all-but-announced campaign for the presidency with an "I'm my own man" sales pitch. Now he was saying, in effect, "Well, I can always ask my brother."

Then, on Monday, Fox News aired an interview in which host Megyn Kelly asked Jeb whether "knowing what we know now" he would have authorized the invasion of Iraq.

"I would have, and so would have Hillary Clinton, just to remind everybody," Bush replied.

Now no one, including Hillary Clinton's worst enemy in the entire world, thinks that if she could go back in time to 2002, knowing that the invasion of Iraq was going to be a total disaster and that she would lose the presidential nomination in 2008 to a guy who ran on that very issue, she would still have voted to authorize the use of force. So, obviously, Bush misheard the question, right? Apparently not. He then went on: "I mean, so just for the news flash to the world if they're trying to find places where there's big space between me and my brother, this might not be one of those."

We had now learned that: 1) Jeb Bush still thinks invading Iraq was a good idea; and 2) he has inherited more of the family syntax issues than we knew.

Fast-forward one day: "I interpreted the question wrong, I guess," Bush told Sean Hannity in a radio interview. "I was talking about given what people knew then, would you have done it, rather than knowing what we know now. And knowing what we know now, you know, clearly there were mistakes."

He still didn't claim that he'd have done anything different than his brother had done. ("That's a hypothetical.") But he was really nailing down that business about mistakes.

Then Bush was off to Nevada, campaigning in his own special way. ("I'm running for president in 2016, and the focus is going to

be about how we, if I run, how do you create high sustained economic growth.")

He also announced that hypothetical questions were a "diservice" to the U.S. troops and their families.

What is going on here? It's not actually about foreign policy. Jeb Bush clearly knows nothing whatsoever about foreign policy, but then neither do the majority of other Republican presidential hopefuls.

The bottom line is that so far he seems to be a terrible candidate. He couldn't keep his "I'm-my-own-man" mantra going through the spring. He over-babbled at a private gathering. He didn't know how to answer the Iraq question, which should have been the first thing he tackled on the first day he ever considered that he might someday think for even a minute about running for president.

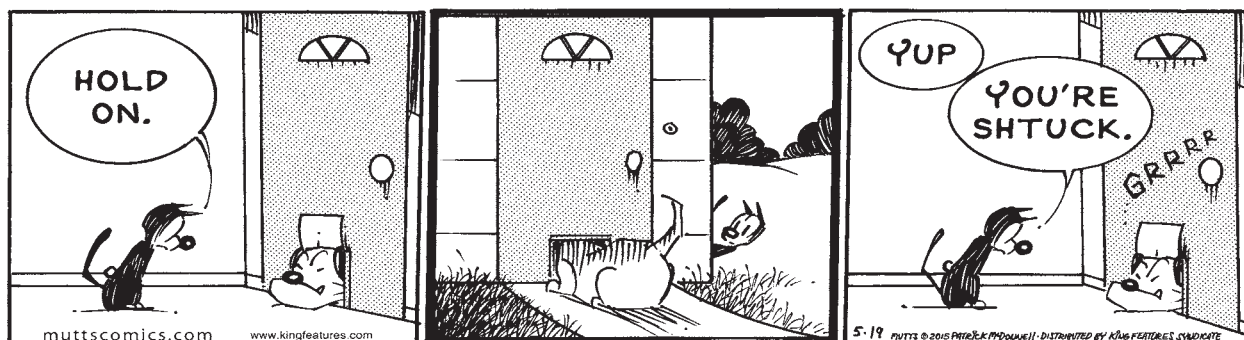
This is obviously a problem for the Bush camp, but it's a big one for the nation's army of concerned citizens, too. There are lots of Americans who are not going to vote Republican next year but who nevertheless have found some comfort in the idea that Jeb Bush would almost certainly be the Republican nominee.

They might disagree with him on a lot of issues, but at least he wasn't Ted Cruz. "I'm a fan of Jeb Bush," Cruz said cruelly, when asked about the Iraq incident. "I'll give him credit for candor and consistency."

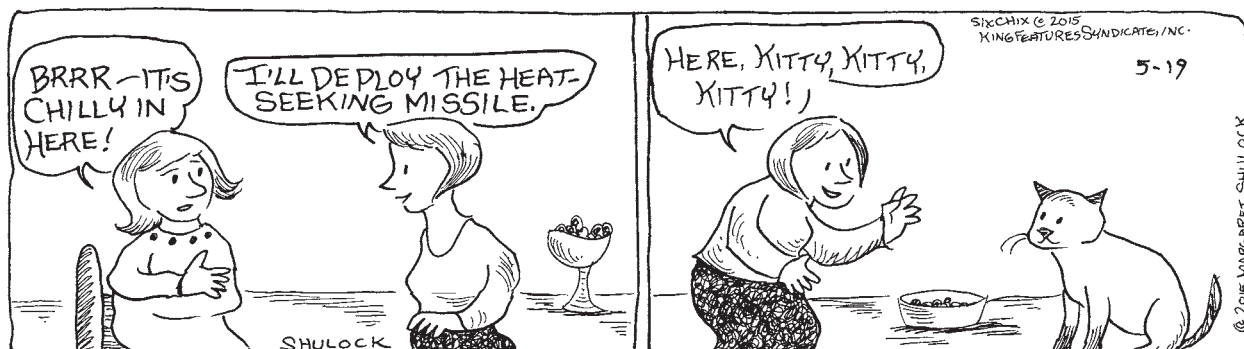
If the version of Jeb Bush we've been seeing lately is the one we're going to be stuck with, then one of the other Republican contenders is going to win. Maybe the guy who thinks Obamacare is the worst thing since slavery. Or the guy who once linked vaccines to children with mental disorders. The guy who used to peddle a "Diabetes Solution Kit." The guy with the bridge traffic jam!

Right now, you know, it's all hypothetical. □

Mutts



6 Chix



Blondie



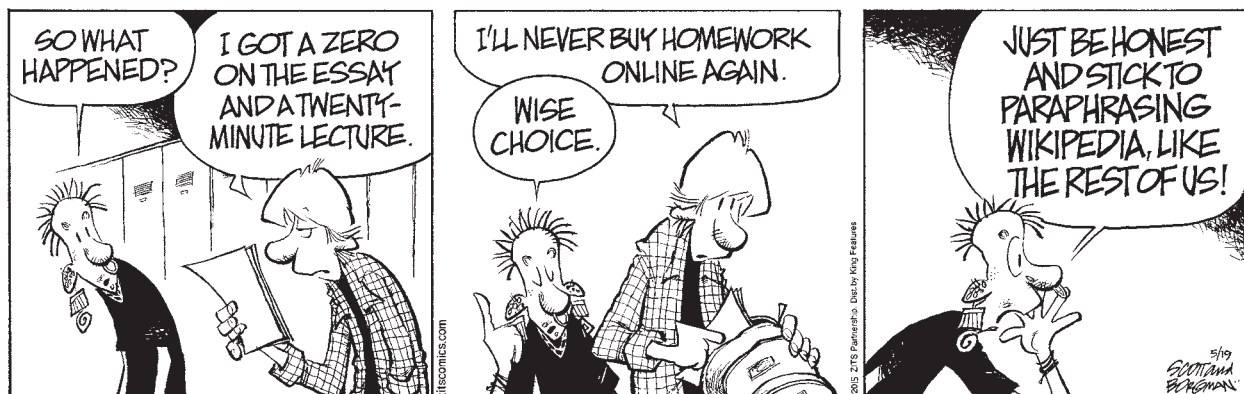
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

	5					8	
6			2	9	1		4
			3		5		
	8	1				4	5
	3					7	
	6	5				3	1
			1	3			
9			7	5	6		2
	4					6	

Difficulty Level ★★

5/19

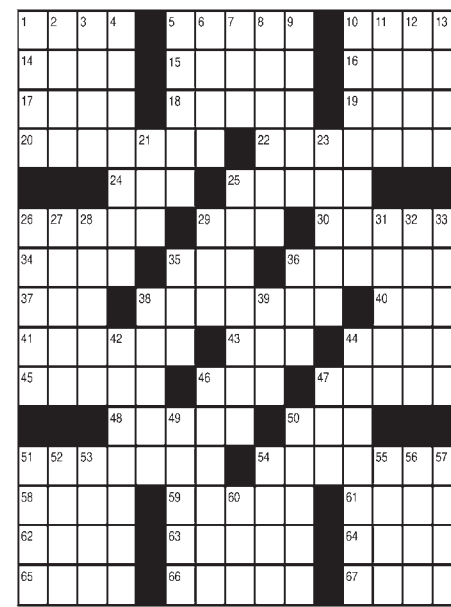
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

2	3	5	8	6	7	4	9	1
9	4	6	3	2	1	7	8	5
1	8	7	4	9	5	2	6	3
5	9	8	6	4	3	1	2	7
7	1	3	9	5	2	8	4	6
4	6	2	7	1	8	3	5	9
3	2	1	5	8	6	9	7	4
8	5	9	1	7	4	6	3	2
6	7	4	2	3	9	5	1	8

ACROSS

- 1 ___-bodied; physically fit
5 Pile up
10 Strong ___ ox
14 Terrible fate
15 Leg bone
16 Freeway division
17 Peace symbol
18 Bumbling
19 Crematorium shelf supplies
20 Germfree
22 Grand player
24 Acquired
25 Repairs
26 Farewell
29 Pea casing
30 Passed out cards
34 Locate
35 Avid supporter
36 Intense fear
37 Tit for ___
38 ___ game; "Midsummer Classic"
40 Dennis or Doris
41 Stamina
43 Golf ball holder
44 Heavy weights
45 More unusual
46 Laying bird
47 Rupture
48 Sellers or Falk
50 Actress West
51 Dreamlike
54 Muckety-muck
58 Alder or ash
59 Copy machine
61 Bamboozle
62 Does drugs
63 Foolish
64 Over the hill
65 June honorees
66 Not as wacky
67 Strong desires



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

5/19/15

Monday's Puzzle Solved

MAMA	SPLIT	ACHE
AVID	ORATE	THUG
YARD	CONSENTING	
ASA	BCDE	OINKS
	CURES	FOR
PAUPER	RENEWS	
ALLOW	ALIAS	ONA
NEON	FRONT	GNAW
GNU	NOMAD	LODGE
	ESSAYS	CARESS
	POT	SUPER
SCRAM	WEDS	LAB
NOURISHING	GAGA	
OLE	RINSE	ONES
BADE	STEEL	ODDS

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5/19/15

DOWN

- 1 Puts two and two together
2 Cowboy's shoe
3 Reason to wed
4 Came into view
5 Lopsided
6 Ore location, often
7 Mary Todd's man
8 Drank slowly
9 Obi fabric, perhaps
10 ___, Jr.; two-time Indy 500 champ
11 Calcutta dress
12 Jillian & Curry
13 Bird's home
21 Debtor's note
23 Deadly snake
25 Ogre
26 Get ___; scold
27 Ross or Rigg
28 Bury
29 Chum
31 Passion
32 Bank offerings
33 Rendezvous
35 Pesky insect
36 Edison's initials
38 Concur
39 Reasonable bedtime
42 Hold in by self-control
44 Today
46 Capital of Montana
47 Black ___; doctor's kit
49 Cabs
50 Small kitchen appliance
51 Decorative nailhead
52 ___ Major; bright northern constellation
53 Tall marsh stalk
54 Rib or clavicle
55 Gigantic
56 Candid
57 Turner & others
60 Hightailed it

Latin America's

Continued from Page 11

But now support has plunged to around 30 percent, a record low, and analysts say an ambitious agenda including a proposed constitutional reform and overhaul of the university education system are at risk.

"When the economy is growing nobody pays attention to corruption," said Patricio Navia, a political scientist who teaches at New York University and Chile's Diego Portales University. "But when the pie stops growing, and voters see others profiting, they start to ask 'where's my piece?'"

The first major test of the shifting public mood will take place in October, when Argentines head to the polls in the region's only major presidential election this year. President Cristina Fernandez's Peronist party is facing a tough battle to elect her successor as 30 percent inflation and a restriction on dollar purchases erode support. The president's credibility has also been tainted by her sometimes erratic response to the shocking death of prosecutor Alberto Nisman as he was investigating an alleged cover-up deal between her government and Iran to shield the Islamic Republic from prosecution in the 1994 bombing of Jewish center. Several courts have questioned the probe.

To be sure, it's not just leftists. Incumbents across the ideological spectrum are facing the heat.

In Colombia, Harvard University-educated President Juan Manuel Santos' approval rating is at the same level as Maduro's as frustration builds over the slow pace of peace talks with leftist rebels. Mexico's Enrique Pena Nieto has also seen his pro-business agenda derailed by allegations of corruption and the disappearance of 43 students after they were handed over by police to local drug traffickers.

The growing frustration with the left could prompt several leaders to moderate their policies and pivot toward the center.

Already in Brazil, the region's biggest economy, President Dilma Rousseff is starting to roll out a more conservative message of austerity, including cuts in unemployment and welfare benefits, to tame a record budget deficit widened by the biggest economic slowdown in 25 years.

With approval rating in the low teens just five months into her second term, Rousseff's also struggling to win back the public trust amid Brazil's biggest corruption investigation, an inquiry into a massive kickback scheme at state-run oil company Petrobras. Rousseff served as chairwoman of Petrobras' board as the graft took place, though there has been no evidence to show wrongdoing on her part.

Navia says moderate governments that are more flexible will have an easier time attracting foreign investment and boosting savings while those pursuing a more transformative, ideology-driven agenda, like Argentina and Venezuela, will face a rougher time making adjustments. □

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14	348	\$ 11,500
8	561	\$ 9,000
13	501	\$ 9,000
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9	135	\$ 9,000
7/8	304	\$9,000 each
10	139	\$8,500
51+52	2547	\$38,250
13	547	\$7,500
16	527	\$4,500

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May 20

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Avianca	588-0059
Dutch Antilles	588-1900
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Jet Blue	588-2244
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Arubano

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Narcotics Anonymous

Tel: 583-8989

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Foundation

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Discovery opens door for homemade morphine, painkillers

ALICIA CHANG
AP Science Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Scientists have figured out all the steps to make morphine and similar painkillers without using opium poppies, opening the door for home-brewed drugs and even wider abuse.

While no one has yet reported making morphine in the laboratory from scratch, some experts are calling for regulations to prevent garage tinkerers from making do-it-yourself morphine, which can be converted into heroin.

Society needs to “think this through now before it becomes a reality,” said bio-engineer John Dueber of the University of California, Berkeley, who led a team that discovered the final missing link of the process. Poppy plants have been farmed for centuries for opium, from which morphine is derived. The controlled substance is often used before and after surgeries to relieve severe pain.

For the past decade, various groups of researchers have hacked the DNA of



In this April 11, 2015 file photo, Afghan farmers harvest raw opium at a poppy field in Kandahar's Zhari district, Afghanistan.

yeast to mimic poppies, in hopes of creating cheaper and less addictive pain relievers. So far, the yeast strains created can only perform the last steps of a long process that can lead to morphine and other narcotic drugs.

A team led by researchers at UC Berkeley discovered the missing piece — the first step in the process — and published the findings Mon-

day in the journal *Nature Chemical Biology*.

The genetically engineered yeast was able to convert sugar to a chemical that's a precursor to morphine. While the researchers stopped short of producing the drug in the lab, their work lays the foundation for DIY narcotics without the need to grow poppies.

Experts said it's still extremely difficult for people

to make homemade morphine because the process is inefficient. Even scientists are years away from lab-made morphine that's strong enough to treat pain. With technology advancing, some point out that there could come a time when brewing morphine may be as simple as brewing beer.

In a commentary published in the journal *Nature*, a

group of researchers from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and University of Alberta in Canada called for restricting genetically modified yeast strains to licensed facilities so that they won't fall into the wrong hands. They also want current laws to be extended to make such yeast strains illegal to distribute.

Now is the time to act because “you don't want to be doing it afterward. You can't do it afterward,” Kenneth Oye, lead author of the commentary and director of the MIT Program on Emerging Technologies, said in a telephone interview. Others said more discussion is needed to determine what regulatory controls should be in place.

“While there are risks of not acting quickly enough on modifying regulations during early technical development, there are also risks of too hastily solving the wrong problems,” Megan Palmer of the Center for International Security and Cooperation at Stanford University said in a statement. □

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Letterman's retirement ends partnership with Murray

DAVID BAUDER

AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Bill Murray has walked onto David Letterman's show dressed as Liberace, a jockey and a football player, flown onto the set in a Peter Pan outfit, worked out while singing "Let's Get Physical" and dove into a water-filled dumpster strewn with garbage. This week he'll be saying goodbye.

Murray's 44th and final appearance Tuesday will mark the end of late-night television's most unique and enduring host-guest relationship, with years of oddball humor by two comics whose sensibilities seemed perfectly aligned. Letterman ends his 33-year run as a late-night host the next night.

Murray, the former "Saturday Night Live" player turned movie star, guested on Letterman's first "Late Night" on Feb. 1, 1982, and on the Aug. 30, 1993, debut of CBS "Late Show." Others have appeared with Letterman more times — Marv Albert, Regis Philbin, Tom Brokaw and a few more — but none as indelibly as Murray.

"He is one of the all-time great talk show guests," said Rob Burnett, executive producer of the "Late Show."

Before the first of Letterman's 6,028 nights as host, Murray came to a meeting and mentioned spoofing Olivia Newton-John's hit song, said Paul Shaffer, Letterman's bandleader. Then Murray disappeared, not attending any rehearsals, not even showing up at the studio until after the show's taping began, he said. Much perspiration ensued. Finally, he showed up and performed an exaggerated routine to the song that included pulling a woman from the audience.

"Billy showed us from day one how it could be, how free the show could be," Shaffer said.

A tape of that first appearance also illustrates that there was an off-kilter chemistry between the two men that was apparent from the start. These



In this March 26, 2011 file photo, Bill Murray, left, and David Letterman appear at the "The Comedy Awards" presented by Comedy Central in New York.

Associated Press

were two men who understood and enjoyed each other, and loved to push the boundaries of comedy. You never knew what to expect, and Letterman went along for the ride in ways that he wouldn't with anyone else.

"I am going to make every second of your life, from this moment on, a living hell,"

leaving something behind, took a box-cutter to rip up the carpet and a drill to tear up the floor and "discover" a time capsule. The deadpan absurdity of the exercise made it priceless. One fall day, Murray said in seeming sincerity, "You know what I miss? The smell of burning leaves."

Whomp! Brown leaves fall



In this Feb. 1, 1982 file photo, host David Letterman, right, and guest Bill Murray appear at the taping of the debut of "Late Night with David Letterman" in New York.

Associated Press

Murray mock-promised on that first show.

Murray wore the Liberace suit to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the "Late Show," carrying a white poodle and arriving in a white car. He feigned ignorance about what he did 20 years earlier, when he spray-painted "Dave" on the host's desk. Then he pretended to remember

from the ceiling onto Letterman and his desk, and the two men strap on leaf blowers to clean the stage. "He comes across as silly and disheveled, but there's a very smart, very sophisticated guy under there who understands comedy at the highest level," Burnett said. "Bill, like Dave, never latches onto the most obvious take. They both in their

would do things like operate cameras during the show. Another idea was that Murray, in his "lounge singer" mode, would declare that "there's not enough love in the world." On the show, he grabbed a camera, dubbed it "Bill Murray's love cam" and stalked into the audience. "Bill's idea was a million times better than either of the two ideas individually," Burnett said. "He turned it into something incredible." Murray's utter lack of fear and willingness to throw himself completely into what he's doing made him special. Will Ferrell can approach him in the physical comedy, but Murray worked on all levels. "You know how they say you can learn a lot from your



In this Aug. 30, 1993 file photo, David Letterman, right, and Bill Murray wave from the side door of the Ed Sullivan Theater during the first episode of "Late Show with David Letterman" in New York.

Associated Press

own way understand the world and have a view that is 10 percent off to the side. In some ways, Bill really embodies the sensibility of the 'Late Show' and knows how to maximize that to great effect."

Perhaps because of his sketch comedy background on "Saturday Night Live," Murray appreciates writers and works with them to make the appearances special, Burnett said.

Steve Martin is similar, and his appearances were precisely scripted. Murray adds unpredictability. One year, Burnett and his team kicked around several ideas with Murray in advance. One was that Murray wanted to give staff members a break, and

defeats?" he said once when things weren't going as well as he'd hoped. "Then this appearance will be very educational for me." The Liberace get-up notwithstanding, in later years Murray and Letterman have relied less on comic routines and more on just talking, Burnett said. "There's only a small handful of people that can have a conversation with Dave on a certain level, who are really his equal," he said. "To see Dave and Bill Murray, two comedy icons who share a mutual respect and genuinely like each other ... hang back and have a conversation is in some ways better than anything we can prepare." □



From right Gus Van Sant and Matthew McConaughey pose for photographers upon arrival for the screening of the film *The Sea of Trees* at the 68th international film festival, Cannes, southern France, Saturday, May 16, 2015. Associated Press

After a Cannes drubbing, Van Sant reflects on 'Sea of Trees'

JAKE COYLE
AP Film Writer

CANNES, France (AP) — The full-throated passions of the Cannes Film Festival can elevate, just as they can humble. As the Palme d'Or winner in 2003 for his school-shooting drama "Elephant," Gus Van Sant has basked in the festival's sunny glow, just as he has, this year, experienced its cold shoulder. Van Sant's "The Sea of Trees," which stars Matthew McConaughey as a man lost in Japan's Aokigahara "suicide" forest, received emphatic boos at its premiere to press members. Though its official red-carpet premiere on Saturday went down better, the Cannes fate of "The Sea of Trees" was already sealed as (at least thus far) the festival's most rudely received film.

"I was, as I always am, cautious," Van Sant said in an interview about showing "The Sea of Trees" at Cannes. "It's a volatile place. So when I heard there were boos, I was like, 'OK. It's happened.'" Speaking Sunday on a windy, seaside pier, Van Sant sounded sanguine about the stormy waters of Cannes.

"Who knows what people thought they were going

to see, but they could easily get really mad because it is very sentimental," said Van Sant. "What better movie to get angry at than something that's too schmaltzy for you? I can see that."

In "The Sea of Trees," McConaughey plays a man racked with guilt over his marriage (Naomi Watts plays his wife) who travels to Japan to kill himself. In the forest, he meets another man (Ken Watanabe) and the movie plays out as part spiritual soul-searching, part survival drama. Plenty of films at Cannes have been received negatively this year. But usually the loudest booing is reserved only for strongly polarizing movies (even Francis Ford Coppola's "Apocalypse Now" was booed in its Cannes debut) or maybe if the hype has so exceeded the movie's merits. Such was the case last year when Ryan Gosling's highly anticipated directorial debut "Lost River" was booed and slammed by critics.

"I think maybe because it's McConaughey, there's a lot of stock in him at the moment and his Lincoln ads are parodied," said Van Sant. "And it's me. It was sort of an illustrious screenplay. It had a re-

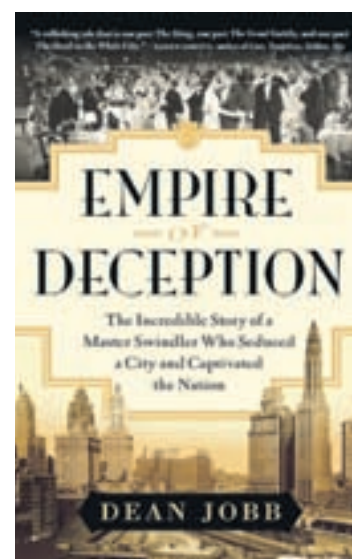
ally good reaction among the agents. ... If it was anticipated, I could easily see myself disappointed. If I thought it was a certain type of movie, and it was just a different movie."

Van Sant says that festival director Thierry Fremaux called to say he wanted the film for Cannes before seeing it. Later, it was moved from the Un Certain Regard sidebar into the competition where expectations are amped up considerably — especially for a well-regarded filmmaker like Van Sant, the director of "Good Will Hunting," "Milk" and "My Own Private Idaho."

"Then it went to competition and I was like: 'OK, wow. This is scary,'" said Van Sant. "But it doesn't matter what you've made. It's always going to be scary."

But sunnier days could still shine on "The Sea of Trees." It was picked up for U.S. distribution by Lionsgate and Roadside Attractions ahead of the festival. The movie-going public generally has less of an issue with sentimentality than Cannes critics, and McConaughey is one of the most popular stars in film right now. A release date hasn't yet been announced, but sometime next year is likely. □

Review: 'Empire of Deception' con man rivals Madoff, Ponzi



This book cover image released by Algonquin Books shows "Empire of Deception: The Incredible Story of a Master Swindler Who Seduced a City and Captivated the Nation," by Dean Jobb.

Associated Press

BETH J. HARPAZ
Associated Press

You've heard of Charles Ponzi, the swindler who gave big returns to early investors using money from subsequent clients. And you've heard of Bernie Madoff, imprisoned for one of the biggest Ponzi schemes in history. Chances are you've never heard of Leo Koretz. A new book, "Empire of Deception," argues that Koretz belongs with Ponzi and Madoff in the con man hall of fame. Koretz's pyramid scheme, played out against a backdrop of crime and corruption in booming 1920s Chicago, eventually entailed millions of dollars invested in a phony agriculture and oil project on Panama's Bayano River. Early clients were paid high interest using money from the next wave of victims, which whetted their appetite for more and stoked Koretz's reputation.

Koretz excelled at hooking victims, increasing their eagerness by first turning them away. When investors traveled to Panama to check out the project, Koretz vanished,

leaving behind stunned relatives and embarrassed clients — many of them wealthy despite their losses and reluctant to acknowledge that they'd been scammed.

Here the story gets even more entertaining. Koretz flees to New York, then to a Nova Scotia resort, where he resumes his lavish lifestyle under a false name. He's unmasked by an incredibly mundane detail — a jacket with his real name inside.

A con man to the end, he manages to cheat the public of any sense that justice was served. He pleads guilty, avoids trial and gets a sentence that offers parole in a mere 11 months. Severely diabetic, he died in prison within two months, with some saying he induced his death through diet.

Author Dean Jobb has fun mining details of the case from the era's sensationalistic newspapers. Readers may wish for more insight into what made Koretz tick, but there's not a lot to go on, other than the author's speculation that Koretz's boyhood immigration experience might have shown "how easily a shrewd operator could relieve people of their money" as he watched ticket agents, money changers, baggage handlers and bureaucrats fleece new arrivals.

Jobb also notes that Koretz's persuasive abilities stood out early on his high school debate team and as a champion fundraiser for any cause. Even then, Jobb noted, Koretz was good at "separating people from their money."

Jobb's parallel story of the prosecutor who pursues Koretz feels less compelling, but overall, this cautionary tale of 1920s greed and excess reads like it could happen today. □

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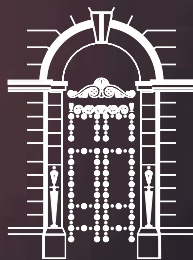
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